

5 Steps to Walk in the Light

1 John 1:5-10

Walking in darkness means that you will stumble, fall, and trip on dangerous obstacles. You can potentially die from these dangers. Walking in full daylight or with a flashlight that gives light, illuminating your path to give you clarity, security, and peace. John's description here is much like his illustration of Jesus being light in John chapter 1. In fact Jesus gave himself this claim, that He is the light of the world in John 8:12 and John 9:5. Listen to John 8:12 *"Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"* Also, John 9:5: *"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."* So the question is, how do we walk in the light? Here are 5 steps directly from 1 John 1:5-10 that give us insight into how to walk in the light of Jesus Christ?

1. Believe God is the source of truth (v.5) This is the foundation of the Christian life. In order to be unified together, we must proclaim that Christ is who He said He is. John, in his gospel in John 1:7 shares that John the Baptist came to witness about Christ: ***"He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him."*** John the Baptist was the forerunner, the witness that Jesus is the light, the source of life, hope, peace, eternal life! The foundation for anyone to walk in the light is to believe the gospel! Follow Jesus! You will be in darkness until you receive the source of truth, the light, Jesus Christ. Have you done this?

2. Become serious about repentance from sin (v.6) John is not a perfectionist, but he does realize that a true Christian must fight sin, not throw their hands in the air and say, "well this is who I am!" No, the Christian will be in battle on this side of eternity. Paul saw this struggle too. Romans 7:15 "For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate." Paul knows the power of the flesh and sin, and that fighting sin must be a serious daily battle that we engage in. John Owen, theologian said, "Be killing sin or sin will be killing you."

3. Bask in the sweet fellowship of Christ and His Church (v.7) This is clear in verse 3 that we looked at last week, a sweet fellowship with Jesus and His Bride, the Church. You may not feel it here in America, but imagine if you were persecuted daily for your faith, fellowship with others being persecuted would be huge! Small things wouldn't matter would they? It's about Christ and the people of Christ that matter.

4. Be real, acknowledging your need for salvation and separation from sin (v.8) A verse that is a great reminder of our sinfulness and need for Christ to save us is Romans 3:23-24. ***"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,"*** Another verse is Romans 6:23: ***"For the wages of sin is***

death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Imagine going to the doctor and finding out that you have a certain disease. The doctor tells you that the disease is fatal, you will pass away from this disease, that is sure. He then tells you that the only cure is available, it’s 100% effective, and it’s free. The problem is, not everyone who hears about the cure takes the cure! We must acknowledge that we are bound for death, hell, separation from God, if we never come to saving faith in Jesus Christ!

5. Benefit from the cleansing, saving power of Jesus Christ. (vv.9-10) Listen to John 1:29 “The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” Jesus is the only one who can cleanse us of sin!