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4-15-1978

### Walking in the Light

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#### Recommended Citation

Vaught, W. O., "Walking in the Light" (1978). *Vaught Sermon Notes: John*. 36.  
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## WALKING IN THE LIGHT

A STUDY OF 1 JOHN  
NUMBER 3  
1 JOHN 1:7

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1 JOHN 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

In this paragraph, verses 6 through 10 of 1 John 1, we have five third class conditions. All of these are ean plus the subjunctive and it means maybe yes or maybe no. Therefore, this verse before us introduces to us the idea that the believer may walk in the light or he may choose to walk in darkness. This is just another way to say he may live in fellowship with God and stay in the bottom circle, or he may live out of fellowship out of the bottom circle and under control of the old sin nature.

YOUR INNER LIFE
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Imagine that this little square represents your life. In that square within every believer is The Holy Spirit but there is also the Old Sin Nature. When the Holy Spirit is in control, the believer walks in the light. When the Old Sin Nature is in control, the believer walks in darkness. Under the control of the Old Sin Nature, the believer imitates the unbeliever and can't

be distinguished from the unbeliever. This is illustrated in 1 Corinthians 3:3. "For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?"

Walking in darkness means that the believer has gone negative toward doctrine and the mataiotes (translated vanity in your Bible) has opened up causing a vacuum in the soul. Into this vacuum has been sucked darkness which causes scar tissue to form on the soul. On the other hand, when the believer is walking in the light he has the filling of the Holy Spirit. He takes the truth of doctrine into this soul on the inhale, and then from his human spirit he is able to exhale faith toward God.

1 JOHN 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." The word "walk" is a present, active, subjunctive of peripateo and should be translated here "If we keep on walking in the light." This is the principle of being spiritually self sustaining. This active voice reminds us that each believer has to walk for himself, no one can do it for you. The subjunctive reminds us that maybe we will walk in the light and maybe we won't. It all depends on our dependence upon the Holy Spirit and on the intake of doctrine. PRINCIPLE God has provided the resources, the power, but you must do your own walking for yourself. In 3 John 3 this described as "walking in the truth." It is referred to as walking by faith in 2 Corinthians 5:7.

### God Is Light

All the way through the Bible we find that God is light. Every time you find God, there is light. 1 John 1:5 says "God is light." Since God is invisible, this is referring to the light that doctrine brings.

Therefore this verse says that maybe the believer will walk in doctrine and maybe he won't. The only way to have fellowship with God is to walk in the light.

Look at these areas of the believer's walk.

- a. Walk in doctrine.

3 JOHN 3 "For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth."

- b. The walk of faith.

1 PETER 5:7 "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

- c. The walk in the Spirit.

GALATIANS 5:16 "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."

Now when you put all these together, you have the dynamics of the Christian life. You have to be filled with the Spirit in order to inhale doctrine. Then the exhale is faith-rest, doctrine in action. All of this is accomplished by the filling of The Holy Spirit. So the key to walking in the light is the Holy Spirit controlled life.

#### THE DOCTRINE OF SPIRITUALITY

You and you alone are responsible for living your own life. You are a believer priest and your responsibility is to the Living Lord. You can only live a life acceptable to The Lord by taking in doctrine. The best way to learn doctrine is from public teaching. One by one counseling is like putting a finger in the dike to keep the water out, but the public teaching of doctrine is building the dam. This is why this word peripateo is in the active voice, to remind you that every day you must walk the walk of faith for yourself. Then the subjunctive mood reminds you that it must be a decision of your own will and maybe you will walk this walk of faith and maybe you won't. It takes a decision of your will in order to stay in the bottom circle and to stay in fellowship every day.

1. WE MUST DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE PRE-SALVATION MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE POST-SALVATION MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

At the point of salvation the Holy Spirit does five things for each believer.

- a. He convicts us of one sin, the sin of unbelief.
- b. He is the agent in regeneration.
- c. He seals us at the point of salvation.
- d. He baptizes us into Christ.
- e. He gives each one at least one spiritual gift.

At the moment of salvation the Holy Spirit comes to indwell the believer. When the believer grieves the Holy Spirit or when he quenches the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit continues to indwell the believer. The believer will always be indwelt by the Holy Spirit because he will always be in the family of God. Once in the family you are there to stay. And this will never change as long as you live. Therefore, learn to distinguish between the pre-salvation ministry of the Holy Spirit and the post-salvation ministry of The Holy Spirit.

Paul gives us the language of the Spirit filled life.

a. Be filled with the Spirit.

EPHESIANS 5:18 "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;"

b. Walk in the Spirit.

GALATIANS 5:18 "But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law."

c. Put on Christ.

ROMANS 13:14 "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."

d. Here in our passage John says, "Walk in the light."

2. SPIRITUALITY AND CARNALITY ARE MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE AND THEREFORE THEY ARE ABSOLUTES.

In other words, you are either spiritual or carnal, you are either or, you can't be both. You can't be part spiritual and part carnal at the same time. You are under the control of The Holy Spirit or you are under the control of the Old Sin Nature. It is one or the other. You are either in fellowship or you are out of fellowship. You are either in the bottom circle or you are out of the bottom circle. You can't be 50% spiritual and 50% carnal at the same time. You are either 100% in the light or you are 100% in the darkness. Spirituality and carnality are absolutes.

3. IMITATION IS ONE OF THE GREAT ISSUES IN LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

When the believer walks in the light and is in fellowship and is in the bottom circle, he imitates Christ. This is found in the greek of Ephesians 5:1. "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;"

(In the greek it says, "Keep on being imitators of God.")

The carnal believer imitates the unbeliever.

GALATIANS 5:19-21 "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

1 JOHN 2:11 "But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes."

4. THE SPIRITUAL BELIEVER ACCOMPLISHES THREE GENERAL OBJECTIVES.

a. He imitates God.

EPHESIANS 5:1 "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;"

b. He glorifies Christ.

JOHN 7:39 "(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)"

JOHN 16:14 "He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you."

c. He fulfills the Mosaic Law.

ROMANS 13:8 "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law."

5. THE SPIRITUAL BELIEVER IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE MOSAIC LAW.

The believer is under a much higher law.

GALATIANS 5:18 "But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law."

GALATIANS 5:23 "Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

ROMANS 10:4 "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."

The believer lives under the law of the filling of The Holy Spirit

6. THE BELIEVER FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT PRODUCES THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST.

GALATIANS 4:19 "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,"

1 JOHN 2:5-6 "But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."

7. WHEN YOU ARE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT YOU CANNOT SIN.

This is designed to help us get ready for 1 John 3:9-10.

This doesn't mean you reach the stage of sinless perfection. You will not reach this stage until you get a resurrection body and all human good is taken from you.

At the point of temptation you can continue to live in fellowship with The Holy Spirit. But when you yield to the tempting of the old sin nature out of fellowship you go and you sin. AS LONG AS YOU ARE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT YOU CANNOT SIN. You do something to get out of fellowship, but you can do nothing to get back in. (Now you say back to me, "How can that be?" Because there are two non-meritorious verbs in the New Testament, one is believe and the other is confess. When you confess your sins, it is non-meritorious. You get no credit for confessing, all the credit goes to God and he does all the work to get you back in. That's why you can do nothing to get back in, He does it all.)

Now when someone says, "I haven't deliberately sinned in years!" immediately I know the person is a fake or is too simple minded to understand the situation. When someone makes such a ridiculous claim, it really does something to my nervous system. The believer filled with the Holy Spirit cannot sin. It takes an act of the volition to sin.

Look at 1 John 3:9. "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."

This verse says that the moment you are born again you are in fellowship, under the control of The Holy Spirit, in the bottom circle. In that condition you cannot sin. But once you yield to the temptation of the old sin nature, out you go and you can sin and do.

8. PRODUCTION IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE DEPENDS ON THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The carnal believer produces human good. If you have scar tissue on the soul and are not taking in doctrine, mental attitude sins come in and the vacuum is created and in is sucked all kinds of sin. Rebound does not remove scar tissue from the soul. It takes Bible doctrine to do that.

9. LOOK AT THE RESULTS OF THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

a. You imitate Christ.

JOHN 16:14 "He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine and shall shew it unto you."

b. Perception of the Word of God removes scar tissue.

JOH 16:13 "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."

c. Witnessing.

ACTS 1:8 "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

d. Guidance.

ROMANS 8:14 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

e. Assurance.

1 JOHN 3:24 "And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us."

f. Worship.

PHILIPPIANS 3:3 "For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh."

g. Prayer

EPHESIANS 6:18 "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"

h. Helping other believers to rebound.

GALATIANS 6:1 "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

10. EMOTIONS OR ECSTATICS DO NOT CHARACTERIZE SPIRITUALITY.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a feeling.

ROMANS 16:17-18 "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."

It is impossible to imitate God apart from the filling of the Holy Spirit. "As he is in the light" sets up this analogy here. He is always in the light and we are to imitate him by walking in the light. This takes us back to 1 John 1:5. "God is light and in him is no darkness at all."

#### IT IS POSSIBLE

It is possible for the believer to live in fellowship with God all the time, even though he still has an old sin nature. God found a way to have fellowship with us and he does this through the Holy Spirit within us. Propitiation is the way he found to love us. Once we are saved he put a power in us that makes it possible for us to be in constant fellowship. Whether we live up to this potential or not depends upon our dependence upon the Holy Spirit's power.

#### FELLOWSHIP

Next we have the phrase "we have fellowship one with another" and it means another of the same kind, meaning another believer. One of the great things the Holy Spirit does inside of us is to produce a relaxed mental attitude and give us agape love.

ROMANS 5:5 "And hope maketh not ashamed, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." This kind of fellowship is not superficial. It doesn't mean you are to call each other "brother" or "sister." It doesn't mean you are always saying "amen" or "hallelujah." The unbeliever with one brain cell can see through shallow superficiality. Christianity isn't anything phony. This fellowship with other believers is based on the blood of Jesus Christ, as this verse goes on to say. But this is such an important subject we will reserve this for our next study.