

Walking in the Light

by Erlo Stegen

Walking in the light brings fellowship with God and others, and is essential for a healthy Christian life.

Duration: 33:33

Scripture: Exodus 33:18, 1 John 1:5

Topics: "Evangelism", "Discipleship"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of passing on the teachings of Jesus to others. He uses the analogy of water flowing in and out to illustrate the concept of receiving and sharing God's message. The speaker also highlights the significance of having a personal relationship with God, drawing inspiration from Moses who spoke to God as a friend. He warns against taking God lightly and reminds listeners of the power and glory of God. The sermon concludes with a story of two missionaries who, despite their differences, embark on a journey to bring the gospel to Africa.

Transcript

Oh Lord, please speak to us through your word. You know where we come from. You also know what type of a life we live.

And you know whether we live according to the Bible or not. Or whether we just live according to the wisdom or the cleverness of demons. Help us Lord, touch us by your grace.

Amen. We find our text in 1 John 1 verse 7. But if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his son cleanses us from all sin. We read thus far.

John here is teaching us or telling us something which the Lord Jesus taught him. For in verse 5 he says, and this is the message we have heard from him and we announce to you. So this is what he and the disciples were taught by Jesus himself.

And he is passing it on saying, God is light and him is no darkness. Can the Lord Jesus speak to us and then can we in turn pass it on to others what he has taught us? Or do you just keep quiet? If you just keep quiet, got nothing to pass on, it shows you yourself are dead. The sea there, Gennesareth, is full of fish.

The water flows in and out. It is full of life in the sea because it takes in but also passes it on. And then the Jordan flows down to the Dead Sea.

The difference with the Dead Sea is that the water flows in but does not flow out again. That is why that sea is dead. So you, if you go to church, you hear the word, but you don't pass it on to others.

You are dead. D.E.A.D. Jesus himself told us that he is light and him is no darkness. And his light is brighter than the light of the sun.

One day Moses spoke to God on Mount Sinai. Now Moses was a man who spoke to God as a man speaks to his friend. So he prayed and said, Lord I ask you.

Just think of that relationship between Moses and God. He spoke as a friend to a friend. And he prayed, he said, Lord, show me your glory.

And God said, you cannot see my glory, my light. If someone would see me, he would fall down dead. The glory and the light of God you cannot face.

Don't take God lightly. Just think of lightning. Many people are afraid of it.

Even some Christians are afraid. And they cover all the glasses and everything and say don't speak because now God is speaking. And they fear.

Some climb under the bed. If you are afraid of lightning, which is nothing compared to God himself and his glory, how much shouldn't you fear him? But it's strange that many people have no fear of God. God means nothing to them.

Whereas we should fear him above anything or everyone else. And then God took Moses and he put him into a cleft of a rock, put his hand over it, and then he went by. And he allowed Moses just to see the back of him because he said no one can see God and live.

And then God took Moses and he put him into a cleft of a rock, put his hand over it, and then he went by. Woe to you who have no fear of God, who just talk what they like, say what they like about who they like. Woe to you if you meet with him one day.

John was one of the younger apostles and he was one that had been very close to the Lord, who was lent on his bosom. And he himself said, I am the one whom the Lord loves most. But when John met up with the Lord as he was walking among the churches, as we find in Revelation, he fell down as one dead.

And he says he saw the Lord with his snow white hair, standing for purity, sanctity, holiness. His face shone brighter than the sun. His eyes were like flames of fire.

So just imagine how he looks at you. And he wore a robe with a belt around the chest. And his feet like burning bronze coming out of the furnace.

They say if you take bronze and you put it into the furnace at that temperature, you can put it under the ground and the flame goes through the soil and comes out. When John saw him, he fell down as one dead. And he no longer said, I was lent on his bosom.

He no longer said, I am the one whom he loves most. And the Lord had to take him by the hand and lift him up and say, don't be afraid. He said, fear not, I have the keys of death and of hell.

Jesus should mean more to us than anybody else. No matter who you are. And John said, Jesus told us that he is light and no one can face this light except the Son who was with the Father and came to us.

And here John says, the Lord told us that if we walk in his light, in God's light, as he himself is in the light, we will have fellowship with one another. And his blood cleanses us. And if that light of God shines, we will see everything as it is.

Not like the light of the sun when it shines, you see a tree with the branches and the leaves. But with God's light, you see even the roots of that tree, what's under the ground. And if we are in the light, in his light, then we will have fellowship with one another.

We as Christians, for we are also called children of light. And John says that in this light there is no darkness at all. Not like some people, they will talk, busy chatting.

When you come onto the scene, suddenly they keep quiet. They won't say a word. They don't want you to hear what they are saying.

You see there is some darkness there. And they will talk and say, don't tell anyone what I am saying. They gossip.

They don't know the heavenly light. Jesus says in him there is no darkness whatsoever. So someone who gossips doesn't know that light.

He is in darkness. And that also applies to the one who covers up things, things which should be in the light. He keeps them in the darkness.

And his light then unites us. It makes us one. Then there is no white or no black or coloured or Indian.

We all become one. And that doesn't mean that you must be one with God. You must be one with God.

And that doesn't mean that you must be one with someone who is not in the light and walking in the light. Someone who walks in darkness. You can't be one with that person.

You can't say I am a Christian, I walk in the light. But you are fellowship with someone who is not in the light. Your friend will be the one who is also walking in the light.

That's what unites you. You cannot be united with someone who doesn't walk in the light, who has works of darkness in him. You will choose those and you will find those who are on fire for the Lord, who are walking in the light.

They will be your best friends, not the others. And that light brings to light any work of darkness. And it does so before you are caught out.

Because some people, they only confess this and they only come out with a thing because they have been caught already. That doesn't help you. That is no blessing to you.

And then you start crying because your sin has come out. But you don't cry because you are sorry about your sin. You cry because you are sorry that you have been caught out.

And those tears are just crocodile tears. A woman missionary in Holland travelled the world, preaching the gospel, together with someone else. Sometimes it is good not to travel alone, to go with someone.

So she travelled with someone. Now she had quite a strong character. And her companion, she was more a shy type of person.

And on the one trip they were going to undertake to Uganda, that was before Idi Amin's time, because the Lord had been at work in that country. So they were preparing to leave for Uganda. Now when you travel, especially from one country to the other, you have to fly.

There are always friends on both sides. And then someone will come and say, please can you take this along for my friend down there. Or please take this for my other friend there.

And eventually you have got a whole heap of things. You don't know how to transport them. Just on this last trip where we returned, we had to leave 30 kilograms of things behind.

And we were already overweight with our luggage. I think we had 70 already. This lady was Corrie Ten Boom.

So as they were about to leave, people were bringing all these gifts which they had to take along. So Corrie Ten Boom just came and she took one thing after the other and just felt it, said this is too heavy, she put it one side. This is too heavy, put it aside, said we can't take that.

Now her companion who was the shy one, in her heart she was unhappy. Her face got longer and longer. And she said, but I don't understand what she's doing.

She doesn't ask me for my opinion. She just does her own thing, what she likes. And eventually they weren't even talking to each other anymore.

So eventually they boarded the plane, these two white missionaries, on their way to Africa to bring the gospel to the Africans. But they were on their way and they weren't one themselves. They weren't one in spirit, one in word and deed.

They were white, very white, going to the blacks in Uganda that are quite dark, to bring them the gospel. And they themselves weren't of one heart and one mind. How foolish a white person can be.

And how silly a white man can be. So they sat on the plane, sipping away at their tea. Eventually they got to Uganda.

Now in Uganda at that time they had experienced revival. Now when God works in revival, there are certain things which he does. So in the revival there, God had made this word and this aspect of light, that God is light and we should walk in the light.

It made it very important to them. To the point that when they greeted each other, they didn't any longer say hello or good morning to each other, but they would greet each other with the words, do you walk in the light as God is in the light? And then the other person would respond with the same question. It was important to them that they were children of the light.

Now in the early church in Jerusalem, the first Christians, to them what was so important was that the Lord Jesus had risen from the dead. Their greeting was, he has risen from the dead. And then the other one would respond by saying, truly, surely he has risen from the dead.

For them that was so wonderful that he had risen from the dead. If we had to greet each other with those words and go to someone and say he has risen from the dead, maybe that person would think something is wrong upstairs. But some people when you look at their faces, how long their faces are and how depressed they are, maybe one should remind them of that and greet them with those words, that they will realize that they have not risen, that they are still dead.

In China they would greet each other with the words, when they greeted each other they would say, tell me brother, have you overcome sin? Have you got victory in your life? That was their greeting. And very often then a person would respond by saying, no I haven't been victorious and he confesses sin immediately. So the Ugandan Christians greeted each other with, are you in the light, walking in the light, as he is in the light.

But these white missionaries didn't know this. They got to Uganda and there were all these Christians. So Koritenboom went to the first one in the line and greeted that person, hello, and that person answered and said, are you walking in the light as God is in the light.

She was shocked. She went to the second one. She went to the second one and that person said, are you walking in the light as God is in the light.

She was amazed. She said, but what's wrong? Who's been gossiping about us? Who's told them about what we've just done and what's just happened? Because people always suspect others of gossiping. You're not sorry that you've sinned.

You just think there's somebody who has gossiped. Ah, mooby. Crooked generation we are.

A bad one too. She got to the third one. The same question.

Are you walking in the light as he is in the light? She stopped. She looked at her companion and said, just come here. They went round the corner.

She said, I'm sorry my sister. I didn't take you into account. I just did my own thing.

I'm sorry about it. They got reconciled to each other. They made peace with each other.

They went to Africa to do missionary work. To evangelize Africa. And Africa had to evangelize them.

That's the trouble with many missionaries in the world. You understand? Take it to heart. And John said, what we've heard from him, what he taught us, we are passing on to you now.

We're announcing to you that he is light. And if we walk in the light, we will have fellowship with one another and his blood cleanses us from all sin. Do you understand? Do you have fellowship with other Christians or do you have fellowship, are you one, with people in the world? Are you one with those that walk in the spirit or are you one with those that are carnal, who walk in the flesh? I'm going to stop.

I'm going to stop here. He is light. Are you walking in this light? In him there is no darkness.

Is there any darkness in your life? If there's any darkness in you, let the sun not set today without you having made that right. If you are a Corrie, that's your sister and that is its fault, then you must make that right. If you say you have fellowship with God and you don't have fellowship with your Christian brother, you're a liar.

That's what the Bible says. And if you say you love God and you don't love your brother or your sister in Christ, you're a liar. The truth is not in you.

If you say you love God and you don't love your sister in Christ, you're a liar. That's what the Bible says. Is it enough? Have you heard? Or must I say it all over again? Go now and don't just be a hearer, but a doer of God's word.

Let's bow our heads. Lord, we hear from John that Jesus told him about his light. How great God's light is.

Jesus also said that you do not like the light because your works are evil. Lord, may your light shine into our hearts. Work in an amazing way.

May your light drive away the darkness. May your light cause us to have fellowship one with another, so that the blood of Jesus can cleanse us. Amen.

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