

Dani Cherian
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Sermon: God is Light
Valley Church

(Video) What an amazing video. I found this video online; It was a great video and a powerful message about how we can choose to live in the Light.

What does it mean that God is Light?

[1Jo 1:5-7 NLT] 5 This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. 6 So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. 7 But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

Darkness involves living in sin and it separates us from God.
Light produces the fruits of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control, again in these there is no darkness. These fruits are the fruits of righteousness.

God's Light is part of our His nature
There are three distinctions **to God's Light**; the ideas are:
Holiness: There is no darkness at all
Illumination: Light often shines; Light creates no shadows
His Light is Infinite: Light is not bound, except by darkness, but there is no darkness in God.

What is it about Light that God want us to understand?

6 So we are lying if **we say** that we have fellowship with Him and **yet** walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

God's Light is like His Presence

Without His Presence we're not actually living in the light. The message before my last message, I spoke about practicing God's presence; practicing His presence and walking (Living) in the Light are a **married relationship**. I believe he's saying that practicing the presence of God through fellowship with Him while living in darkness (Sin) is not practicing the truth.

Do you remember how God started creation? The Light separated the Darkness (Gen 1:4) John 1:5 paraphrasing says "And the Darkness did not comprehend the light

The point is we're now, Light. As a new creation in Christ Jesus we are children of light. We know how to practice the truth because we have the mind of Christ. We continue to live in the Grace that abounds so we can continue living in the light, not so we can continue in sin. Living in the light is not striving but trusting in God. It's through his finished work on the cross and **the blood** that was shed that we are alive; the sacrifice that Jesus displayed to our Father on the cross for our sins.

The reason we want to walk in the Light is to:

“follow the example of Christ.”

[Eph 5:2-8 NLT] 2 Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. **He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us**, a pleasing aroma to God. 3 Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. 4 Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes--these are not for you. **Instead, let there be thankfulness to God.** 5 You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. 6 Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. 7 Don't participate in the things these people do. 8 For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light!

The example to follow is that Christ *loved* us. Do you know that God thinks about you and about each detail that you do? (Ps 37:23-24 – *those whose trust is in the Lord*) This is the God we are serving; this God, wants your heart, he wants you...

The reason we want to continue living in the Light is because we're the people of light and it is ours to inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God! *But if we practice sin*, we will not inherit the Kingdom of God; which means God will not give us the land!

“these are not for you” When I read this, I believe the Holy Spirit's tone is not Anger. I believe he is saying: My eyes are on you, My beloved, and I went through all this sacrifice because I love you. I think parents can relate, do you love your children? Wouldn't you die for them? Aren't they so *precious* to you? You have invested so much time into them. No matter how much sin is in their life that love for them will never go away. As his children of light, we are so precious to Him that these sinful activities are not healthy for us...God doesn't want us to go through with sinful activities because sin separates us from Him.

“Instead, let there be thankfulness to God” – The Message bible says it even better: “Thankfulness is now our dialect.”

The word DIALECT in the Merriam-Webster dictionary says it’s “a form of a language that is spoken in a particular area and that uses some of its own words, grammar, and pronunciations”

So our dialect has become a language of thankfulness in our present situation. Thankfulness is a way we express to God our love for what He is currently doing in our life. When I go through struggles or trials; thankfulness to God brings me back into focus.

I remember after coming back from Montana State University. There was a group from campus Crusade for Christ coming to our church. When I experienced their friendship and how they lived for Christ, I realized that I was not living in the light. Everything that I experienced in college was a twisted point of view; I thought I was living in the light but my lifestyle in college was not that example. So when I came back to Juneau and spent time with these young adults who dedicated their life to the Lord; my eyes were opened. I even wrote an entry in my bible describing it: “that they manifested a sweet aroma; it was the presence of God in them. How they lived didn’t resemble how I lived; I was living in darkness and they were choosing to live in the Light. John 1:4 says, “In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.” (NASB) The Holy Spirit was calling me back to walk in His light. He showed me their light while we were playing Frisbee Golf. God didn’t show me while I was hanging out at church with them, God revealed His Light while I was living life in the midst of them, watching them play a game.

The Holy Spirit gives us insight

[1Co 2:9-10 NLT] 9 "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." 10 But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets.

Paul writes that he preached through the power of the Holy Spirit. He left the things he once knew and the only thing he kept was the message of Jesus Christ and that He was crucified. He didn’t rely on elegant speeches, but it was his simple message and the Power of the Holy Spirit. We understand this simple message of the Gospel because the Holy Spirit revealed it to us. (1Co 2:1-10 NLT) ***It’s for us to know the secrets of God so that we may live in the Light.***

David teach us how to walk in the light and reminds us how to have a fearless trust in God (God is *his* Light and [*his*] Salvation

(doing it practically with application)

[Psa 27:1, 4 -NLT] 1 A psalm of David. The LORD is my light and my

salvation--so why should I be afraid? The LORD is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble? ... 4 **The one thing I ask** of the LORD--**the thing I seek most**--is to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, **delighting** in the LORD's **perfections** and **meditating** in his Temple. 5 For he will conceal me there when troubles come; he will hide me in his sanctuary. He will place me out of reach on a high rock.

v.1 So this fearless trust in God is produced through an active walk in the light and understanding that God is our salvation.

v.4 This is my favorite part of all the scripture I'm reading because it gives us the clue of how David walked in the light. We get to hear from David, how he was living his life.

v.4 He asked, was seeking, and lived in God's house. In God's house there is no darkness. He was actively pursuing the things of God. *When* we're seeking God's presence. We're **NOT** seeking God on a whim; we are pursuing God in pray with purpose, like David. When I was younger, my parents would encourage us to go to Indian prayer meetings. I never really enjoyed going because I could never understand what my family was praying. They were speaking in their native tongue. So when it was my turn to pray, my heart wasn't really in it, most of the time I was praying on a whim. David said, "...The thing I seek *most*—is to *live*..." David wanted to live in God's Light, in His presence.

- I believe in order to stay in that mindset we have to "delight in the perfections of God Our DIALECT of thankfulness should be; ...We are meditating upon him.
- We have to Delight in God's: lovingkindness (mercy), goodness, faithfulness,

When I'm at my weakest moments and I don't know how to trust; I have to remember what his word says to me. (Isa 41:10) When I read God's word, I'm focused *on His words*. He keeps His word even when I fail. So I'm relying on the promises of His word, and not focusing on my lack of trust in Him. This is the junction of my struggles; when I'm faced with "a trouble" like David in **verse 5** and there is no way to move past it except by going through it. *My faith in His word moves me forward. His word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path* (Ps 119:105 NASB)

We're the ones who bring the light of Christ into our city. David's life was dynamic because he brought this attitude of "delighting in God" into his everyday life.

David kept his heart set on God.

v. 8 The Lord says in David's heart:

“Come talk to me” and he responds, “I am coming”

God call us to live in the Light in everything we do!

[Eph 5:1 NLT] 1 Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children.

We just learned that God is Light and to imitate Him, In Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit we get to imitate God as Light! But have to remember that in light there is no darkness, and Light does not create shadows.

God wants us to know that He is Light, and that He wants us to remain in him. God desires for us to walk and live in the light. He desired it so much that He sent His Son down to earth to be our sacrifice for sin. Jesus was an innocent man, laid his life down for mankind. And Jesus knew He was the Son of God, he left us with an image of how light should be walked out.

We learn by example, that’s why campus crusaders caught my attention, I saw their light, I was drawn to how they chose to live their life, with honesty, wholesomeness, a genuine heart to live like Christ, there was sincerity, and pure hearts.

Be encouraged, Christ promised that He is faithful to finish the work in us. Don’t condemn or beat yourself up if you feel like you’re not at a certain level of maturity. You’re not trying to perform or strive; you’re trusting in God, in His faithfulness, to complete the work in you.

Lets stand up together

I want to end with reading scripture from the Message translation of Matthew 5:13-16. Jesus is talking about you and me being the Salt and the Light in this dark world:

13 “Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, **how will people taste godliness?** You’ve lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

14-16 “Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. **Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop**, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

If we are to be like God let’s shine our light bright!

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