

# Lessons From I John

---

## Walking With God

(I Jn 1:5-10)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
  - a. Greeting...
2. Series of "Lessons From I John."
  - a. We looked at the introduction last week (**I Jn 1:1-4**).
    - i. In this we noticed that this section was written concerning eternal life found in Christ that makes our joy full.
      1. **I Jn 5:11-13** "And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life."<sup>1</sup>
    - b. This week we are going to examine how that eternal life continues in us which is by "Walking With God" in the light.
      - i. Light is often used to describe God the Father in contrast to evil.
        1. **Ps 27:1** "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"
        2. **II Co 4:6** "For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."
        3. **Ja 1:17** "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."
        4. **I Jn 1:5** "This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."
3. Walking in the light with God illuminates some very interesting and wonderful realities for each Christian.
  - a. In this lesson we will examine these realities today.

### I. There Is No Darkness In God

- A. This simply means there is no sin in God the Father
  1. **Ti 1:2** "in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began"
  2. **He 6:18** "so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us."
  3. **I Jn 1:5** "... God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."

---

<sup>1</sup> All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted.

## Lessons From I John

---

- B. This leads to a fascinating reality though
  - 1. Since God is perfect and sinless, and because He therefore cannot lie, we can have confidence in Him that what He says will be so.
    - i. **Nu 23:19** "God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?"
    - ii. **Ps 33:11** "The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations."
- C. We don't have to worry about the "what ifs" that come with humans
  - 1. What if so & so is lying to me...
  - 2. What if so & so is unable to keep his word...
    - i. With God there are no what ifs like this. He will always do what He says He will do.

### II. We Cannot Have Fellowship With God In Darkness

- A. People love darkness more than light in general
  - 1. **Jn 3:19** "And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil."
    - i. **Jn 3:19** "This is the crisis we're in: God-light streamed into the world, but men and women everywhere ran for the darkness. They went for the darkness because they were not really interested in pleasing God." (TM)<sup>2</sup>
- B. Darkness keeps us from the Father
  - 1. Because God is not darkness and cannot be around darkness when we are in the dark, hiding from His light, we keep ourselves from Him.
    - i. **Is 59:1-2** "Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; 2 but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear."
    - ii. **Je 5:25** "Your iniquities have turned these away, and your sins have kept good from you."
  - 2. If we keep ourselves from Him we cannot please Him.
    - i. **He 11:6** "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."
- C. Fellowship is...
  - 1. A close relationship between two or more based on being like-minded.
    - i. "communion, fellowship, sharing in common" (Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words. Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.)

---

<sup>2</sup> An occasional use of a certain version does not imply that I endorse that version in anyway.

## Lessons From I John

---

- ii. "which fellowship, acc. to John's teaching, consists in the fact that Christians are partakers in common of the same mind as God and Christ, and of the blessings arising therefrom" (Thayer, J. H. (1889). A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: Being Grimm's Wilke's Clavis Novi Testamenti (352). New York: Harper & Brothers.)
- 2. Fellowship therefore is walking with God, meaning...
  - i. Being transformed by God.
  - ii. Being in communion with God.
  - iii. Being of the same mind as God.
  - iv. Being united with each other through God.
  - v. Being knowledgeable concerning sin which is against God.

### III. Walking With God

- A. Being transformed by God
  - 1. First by becoming adopted by God.
    - i. **Ro 8:15** "For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!""
    - ii. We were adopted by God when we became His children which is done through reconciliation.
      - a. **II Co 5:17-19** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation."
    - iii. Adoption by reconciliation comes only one way, by following the pattern set forth by God.
      - a. By studying God's Word to see what is expected of us.
        - 1. **Ro 10:17** "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."
      - b. By putting our faith in Jesus as the Christ.
        - 1. **Jn 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."
        - 2. **Jn 14:15** "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."
      - c. By giving our life over to Christ in repentance.
        - 1. **Ac 2:38** "And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
        - 2. **Ac 17:30** "The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent"

## Lessons From I John

---

- d. By confessing Jesus as the Son of God.
    1. **Mt 10:32** "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven." (NKJV)
    2. **Ro 10:9-10** "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (NKJV)
  - e. By being baptized/immersed into Christ unto the forgiveness of sins, we will be united with Christ.
    1. **Ro 6:3-5** "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."
    2. **Ac 22:16** "And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name."
  2. Second by continuing to draw closer to God.
    - i. **II Co 4:16** "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day." (NKJV)
    - ii. **Ro 12:2** "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."
- B. Being of the same mind as God
1. This means thinking the same way as God.
    - i. **Ph 2:5** "Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (ASV)
    - ii. **II Co 10:5** "We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ"
  2. I'm not saying we can become as knowledgeable or wise as God by saying this.
    - i. **Is 55:8-9** "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."
    - ii. I'm just saying we are to start thinking like God in every way we can.
      - a. In other words striving to think perfectly and thus live perfectly ie righteously at all times.

## Lessons From I John

---

- C. Being in communion with God
  - 1. This means acting the same way as God ie being righteous.
    - i. **Ep 5:1** "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children."
    - ii. **Mt 5:48** "You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."
    - iii. **I Pt 1:14-16** "As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy.""
- D. Being united with each other through God
  - 1. This means each of us think & act the same way because of God.
    - i. **I Jn 1:7** "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."
  - 2. We are not to be divided in anyway.
    - i. **I Co 1:10** "I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment."
- E. Being knowledgeable concerning sin which is against God
  - 1. This means we better understand we sin and need God if we want to walk with Him.
    - i. **I Jn 1:8, 10** "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us...10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."
    - ii. **Ro 3:23** "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"
    - iii. **Ro 6:23a** "For the wages of sin is death..."
  - 2. This means we better understand when we sin we better ask for those sins to be removed since we recognize the devastation sin has on us walking with God.
    - i. **I Jn 1:9** "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

### CONCLUSION

- 1. Andrew Murray once said, "Our love to God is measured by our everyday fellowship with others and the love it displays." (<http://goo.gl/wXgEi>)
  - a. How true a statement. Let the fruit of our fellowship with God be seen in our fellowship with "likeminded" Christians.
- 2. Question: Are you in fellowship with God and those in fellowship with Him?
  - a. If so thanks be to God and continue therein.
  - b. If not make it known now that there is only one way into that fellowship for wayward Christians and that is repentance (**I Jn 1:9**). But thanks be to God once again that you do repent he is just and faithful and will forgive you of your trespasses.
- 3. Invitation
  - a. If you need to obey the patter of salvation set forth by God please let us know today before it is too late.