

“Walking in the Light Series”

1 John 1:1-10 New International Version (NIV):

1. *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.*
2. *The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.*
3. *We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.*
4. *We write this to make our joy complete.*
5. *This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.*
6. *If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.*
7. *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, purifies us from all sin.*
8. *If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.*
9. *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*
10. *If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.*

“When truth shows up, darkness has to move”

John does not begin this letter with feelings, opinions, or personal spirituality. He begins with **evidence**. Before he discusses how we live, he tells us who Christ is and how we know him. In a culture where truth is relative, morality is compromised, and spirituality is customized, John anchors faith in historical revelation and moral accountability.

This passage answers these pressing modern-day questions:

- *“If someone says they are spiritual, but it doesn’t match the Bible or change how they live, should we believe it?” Why or why not?*
- *Does God care how we live, or only what we believe?*
- *Can people claim intimacy with God while rejecting the truth about sin?*

John’s answer is unapologetic and true:

Light exposes, truth confronts, and fellowship demands honesty.

PART I — The Word of Life Revealed (1 John 1:1-4)

Big Idea

The believer’s faith is grounded in the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Exposition

John emphasizes sensory language:

- *heard*
- *seen*

- *looked at*
- *touched*

This is a direct rebuttal to early **Gnostic** ideas that denied Jesus' full humanity. John insists that eternal life entered space, time, and flesh. Christianity is not an idea to ponder—it is a Person encountered.

Fellowship (*koinōnia*) flows vertically (with God) and horizontally (with one another). Joy is not emotional hype; it is the fruit of shared truth.

Key Terms

- **Word of Life** – Christ as both message and source of life
- **Manifested** – made visible, revealed openly
- **Witness** – legal testimony, public verification
- **Fellowship (koinōnia)** – shared participation, not casual association
- **Fullness of joy** – completeness rooted in truth, not circumstances

In a culture that privileges personal experience over objective truth—how should the church respond to a modern cultural movement that treat truth as a social construct?

PART II — God Is Light: Truth vs. Performative Faith (1 John 1:5–7)

Big Idea

God's nature defines morality; light exposes the contradiction between confession and conduct.

Exposition

John presents a theological absolute:

“God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.”

Light here represents **truth, holiness, and moral clarity**. John exposes three false claims:

1. Claiming fellowship while walking in darkness
2. Claiming truth while living in deception
3. Claiming God without transformation

Walking in the light does not mean perfection—it means **alignment**. The blood of Jesus cleanses those who live honestly before God, not those who perform righteousness while hiding sin.

Key Terms

- **Light** – divine truth and moral purity
- **Darkness** – deception, moral rebellion, concealment
- **Walk** – habitual pattern of life
- **Truth** – reality as God defines it
- **Blood of Jesus** – atoning sacrifice with ongoing effect

What does John equate “walking in the light” with?

PART III — Confession, Sin, and Divine Faithfulness (1 John 1:8-10)

Big Idea

Denial of sin is not spiritual maturity—it is rebellion.

Exposition

John dismantles self-deception with surgical precision:

- **Denying sin corrupts the self**
- **Confessing sin restores fellowship**
- **Calling God a liar fractures truth**

Confession (*homologeō*) means “to say the same thing.” It is in agreement with God’s verdict, not negotiation. God’s faithfulness and justice ensure forgiveness because sin has already been judged at the cross.

Grace does not erase truth; it requires it.

Key Terms

- **Sin** – missing God’s standard, rebellion, broken alignment
- **Confess** – agree fully, speak truth without excuse
- **Faithful** – God’s covenant reliability
- **Just** – God’s righteous consistency
- **Cleanse** – ongoing purification, not denial

Why might confession be perceived as oppressive today—and how does John redefine it as a pathway to freedom rather than shame?

Food for thought:

By walking in the light, we are re-centered because our discipleship is based on **truth, light, and honest relationship with God**—not based on belief only, but transformation.