

Lesson 12 - Walking in the Light

God is Love, but He is also Light – 1 John 1:5

- Unconditional love is based on the nature of the One *giving it*. It is never based on the performance of the person *receiving it*. But by His very nature God is against any darkness that lies in us.
- He is not against us, but He is against any darkness that may hinder our intimacy with Him and others. (1 John 2:9-11)
- Many Christians have dramatic encounters in the presence of God at conferences or renewal meetings. However, many people seem to lose the impact of what they experienced within two weeks. **They find it difficult to sustain healthy relationships of expressed love and grace with God, their spouse, and others.**
- We can only receive Father's love and dwell in a place of intimacy when we choose to purify ourselves, lay aside darkness, and walk in the light. Read 1 John 3:1, 3 and 1 John 1:5-7.
- Liberty, freedom, and intimacy only happen for those who live in light. When we walk in the light, it allows us to have fellowship both with God, vertically, and with others, horizontally.
- **Darkness cuts off the freedom and intimacy we can have with God and with others.**
- **Light is rooted in humility! Light is the willingness to be known for who we are.** There is nothing hidden between us and God and us and men.
- Light is to set us free so we can have deeper intimacy. Jesus is the light. (John 8:12) His ways lead us into openness and transparency which results in deeper and deeper intimacy.
- God wants you to live in freedom every day of your life. He wants you to walk in personal renewal and personal revival every day of your life!

Satan Traffics in Darkness

- **Darkness is a moral state where you hide things, have secrets, and give the enemy grounds to traffic in your life.** The fallen angels were turned over to darkness and darkness is the dominion of Satan. (Jude 6, Acts 26:18)
- Darkness is not just a place void of light, but is where the enemy has legal ground to steal, kill, and destroy in your life.
- Darkness drains away our intimacy with God and others. We can have breakthroughs, but if we do not deal with darkness in our lives, it will not last. (John 1:4-5)
- We must discern the things in our lives that are darkness and bring them to the light.
- Darkness is rooted in pride. It prompts us to hide, be unreal and more concerned about what man thinks than with what God thinks.
- Any area where we do not know what God's Word says may be an open door for our thoughts and beliefs to be ones of darkness rather than light also. (2 Cor. 4:3-4, Luke 11:34-36, Eph. 4:17-18)

Potential Areas of Darkness

We must allow God to help us walk in the light every day, dealing with any problem areas so we can experience freedom. The Lord needs us to reflect Him to a lost and dying world. It is time to cast off any darkness that would hinder Him from using us to usher in His Kingdom.

(Rom. 13:12-14)

1. Darkness can enter in from hidden and unconfessed sin in our lives. (John 3:19-21)

- Darkness is never stagnant. It's never silent or passive. It drives you to do it.
- Wherever darkness is, something is happening in your life. Often in our private lives there is much that no one really knows about you. **The inward motives of our hearts may have darkness as well as our outward actions.**
- Many of the outwardly immoral sins take place at night in the dark. Men seek darkness in which to commit their dark deeds- drunkenness, promiscuity, murders and much more.
- The darkness in our hearts may be harder to see: greed, competition, hatred, rebellion, lustful thoughts and so much more.
- Most of our problems come from our flesh, "me, myself, and I." These hidden sins of pride and self-love can give the enemy ground in our lives. Pride is really being more concerned about what people think than having intimacy with God.

Are you willing to pay the price to experience God's overwhelming love and acceptance?

- It will cost you your pride. It will also mean confessing your sins one to another. **(James 5:16, Prov. 28:13)**
- Is there someone in your life that knows the deepest, darkest, secrets of your life?
- Who prays over your weaknesses and who is a strength to you in a troubled time?
- Does your spouse know the real you? Often we are closed to our spouse and our relationship is only on news, weather, sports, children, and ministry.
- Has intimacy with your spouse and children been stolen because of the hidden issues of your heart?
- We **must choose light over darkness**. As soon as we do, we receive God's ability and the gift of humility and repentance. This brings a greater sense of God's presence into our lives and begins the healing process of restoring us to a childlike innocence and intimacy. **(1 Pet. 5:5-6, Rom. 2:4)**
- Once you have tasted of the heavenly gift and the power of the ages to come, you will desire to walk in it more. **(Heb. 6:4-5)**

2. Darkness is often the result of another person's darkness invading your life and defiling you. (1 John 2:9-11)

- Darkness can be the result of wounding that we have received from others. It may not be the result of our own wrong choices. It can be **the result of our reactions to those who have disappointed or wounded us**. Thus intimacy is hindered. **(1 Pet. 3:7)**
- Where there is **unresolved conflict** with another person, we can be blinded and lose sight of reality and where we are going.
- We feel insecure and are no longer able to walk in light and grace.

- Then we are led by our own need. God's love never forsakes us; however, our pride separates us from the sense of dwelling in His love. (**Heb. 13:5, Isa. 59:2**)
- We may be doing all the right things and yet drift off the center of Father's love.
- ***God often uses your spouse to reveal the unyielded areas of your heart.*** Your spouse is a great blessing to help you find out what you are full of when you think you are so holy!
- Needing to prove that **you are right** in a situation and **not being willing to move allows no room for relationship.**
- Wherever there are unresolved issues, you can only teach the letter of the law.
- Conflict in relationships shows ***unresolved issues of pride, independence, and rebellion.*** They result in emotional pain, guarding your heart, and being insecure with each other. Now the relationship is built on control and manipulation.

Are you willing to ask Holy Spirit to show you areas in your closest relationships that you can grow in?

- Do you have to be right or do you value relationship more than being right?
- Have you allowed any root of bitterness to start growing in your heart from a conflict with another person?
- Are you more aware of your need or God's love?
- Do you find yourself guarding your heart or feeling the need to control in any of your relationships?
- Expect the Holy Spirit to reveal any places where you may have drifted off center on Father's love. He desires to help you learn to walk in more of His light, grace and love.

3. Darkness may enter in from our masks, cover-ups, walls, and pretenses. (Eph. 5:13-18)

- **Light reveals, darkness hides.**
- You can be totally closed to another person, not real or open.
- Our unwillingness to be known is a great hindrance to intimacy.
- ***Anytime we do anything or say anything to hide what we are or what we have done, that is darkness. If we choose darkness, it cuts off our fellowship with God.***
- Hiding the truth about ourselves from others and pretending to be better or more mature than others is the sin that caused the Pharisees to crucify Jesus.
- The sin of deception and cover-up was the first sin disciplined in the book of Acts. Ananias and Sapphira wanted to appear more spiritual and that they had sacrificed more than others. ***Darkness brought spiritual numbness and death. (Acts 5:1-10)***
- Hiddenness also results in shame. We are cut off both vertically with God and horizontally with others, which means there is no intimacy.
- We wear masks believing that others will not love us if they really knew us. We become unreal in our relationships because we have fallen for the accuser's lies. The devil knows if he can keep you in darkness, he can keep you in torment.

Are you willing to live a life of openness and transparency?

- That is the genuine proof of sincere hunger for God and a desire for relationship.
- **Light brings warmth and is a necessity for life.** But darkness is cold and drives us to hide behind walls of self-protection which cuts us off from God.
- In light, there is liberty as we can be vessels that contain the presence of God. The problem comes when we try to do things on our own, forsaking God and looking to broken cisterns that hold no water. (**Jer. 2:13**)
- **Love and intimacy must have a foundation of purity and wholeness.**
- Where there is a love deficit, we begin to seek love in all the wrong places. The list of fleshly sins in the Bible usually starts with sexual sins. When intimacy is cut off by darkness, lustful passions develop. If you do not refrain from sexual sin, you will lose a sense of value, a sense of honor toward yourself.

4. Darkness may be the sense of shame and defilement that you carry from the immoral or sexual sins of the past. (Rom. 13:12-14)

- Light is the armor that protects us from temptation. If we walk in shame and uncleanness, we drift off center of Father's love.
- We were created for love and intimacy, so we may feel the **need to bond to someone or something.** We may **seek wrong answers for right intimacy needs.** We feel unclean so it is difficult to love ourselves. There is a sense of impurity and we end up rejecting God, not He us. (**1 Thes. 4:3-8**)
- When we let darkness in, it results in lust. You seek to get your needs met at another's expense and intimacy is cut off.
- A man is prone to lusting with his eyes through pornography, masturbation, or they fall into an affair. They are seeking comfort in their flesh because darkness hinders true intimacy with God and their spouse.
- A woman usually goes into a fantasy life wishing her husband were this or that, comparing him to others, looking for "prince charming." This attitude releases a deeper darkness into the relationship as it violates the first two commandments of loving God and others.
- All other sin is outside the body, but sexual sin clings to the body. (**1 Cor. 6:16-20**) Sexual bondages are often the most difficult to be set free from because you feel too unclean to abide in God's love. You may repent and be forgiven for your sins, but the feelings of shame and uncleanness may remain if you never bring them to the light. Sustaining intimacy with God will also be difficult.
- Allowing any area of darkness to remain is like filling a bathtub without a stopper. God loves us so much that His love keeps flowing to us but we are not able to retain a sense of His intimacy and grace. Instead we slip back into feelings of shame and guilt.

Are you willing to let God show you where any darkness is hindering your relationships? Are you willing to confess your sin? Do you want to be cleansed and walk in the light?

- We can confess our sin to God and He forgives us the first time we ask. However, **the blood does not cover what we leave hidden in darkness and do not uncover.** (**1 John 1:7**)
- **Forgiveness of sin and cleansing of sin are two different things.** We can still carry the shame of our sin because of the feelings of guilt and fear that someone may find out about it.

Walking in the Light

- There is a lie wherever there is darkness. Darkness multiplies and is active all the time. Darkness increases each time you do not tell someone.
- Any darkness in our life is an area where Satan has a legal right to traffic. If we choose to hide our sins and failures, the enemy has grounds to bring accusation, self-condemnation, and shame to us.
- Cleansing of our sin does not happen in darkness. Darkness only washes off in the light!
- Darkness can be a generational curse.
- Before you can come into the fullness He has for your life, you must come into the light. We must humble ourselves. **(1 Pet. 5:5-7) Humility is a willingness to be known for who we really are!**

Intimacy can only be built on a foundation of openness and transparency.

- Before a person can open up a sense of trust must be established. The person must feel safe with you.
- Some people may be too immature or violent to handle truth in a relationship. You cannot drive a 10,000 pound truck across a 5,000 pound bridge.
- You may begin by sharing your inward darkness with a mature and trusted prayer partner or friend. **(Ps. 51:6; 1 John 1:9)** It may require an experienced counselor to help you restore intimacy in a marriage.

Remember that **when you walk into a dark room, you do not cast out the dark, you turn on the light.** Light dispels the darkness and releases God's love to flow, heal and restore intimacy in your relationships! **(Heb. 9:14; 10:22)** Start today to allow more light into every area of your life!