

“Light That Conquers”

Continued from this morning's Sunday school lesson

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I John 1:4-10

- 4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.
5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.
6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:
7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.
8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

John mentioned several things that he was saying because he wanted people to have *fellowship* with him. He wanted people to have fellowship with God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. He mentions that he saw Jesus. He heard Him. He beheld Him. He looked upon Him. He says that he is writing these things to them that they may have fellowship.

Fellowship is an “association between two parties on pleasant, intimate terms.” People can have things in common such as fishing, hunting, or sewing. If I like the same things that you like, then we have things in common. We can sit down and we can talk about the things that we have in common. Likewise, Christian people have something in common in that we all have the same Father. We have been born again in the same way. Our sins have been washed away by the same blood. We belong to the same family; therefore, we have things in common. We can have fellowship and communicate with one another and have some great times.

“*And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.*” He talks about all that he is seeing. He saw Jesus, he heard Jesus, and he handled Jesus. He talked about the Word of Life that was manifested. He says, “*...that your joy may be full.*” I know that in the world today we don't think much about joy. Joy is a great thing. When people are born again and they have fellowship with God, when we have fellowship with the

Lord Jesus Christ and we have fellowship with our brothers and sisters then we are people that are filled with joy. We are overrunning with Joy. *Joy* in the Greek means “an inner gladness.” When I fellowship with God, I have fellowship with God's people then I have an inner joy that cannot be explained. It tells us about a deep seeded pleasure. That's what that word in the Greek means; not only an inner joy, inner gladness, but a deep seeded pleasure. People that are saved, people that are having fellowship with God; we have something on the inside of us that we cannot explain.

The Bible talks about a joy that is unspeakable and full of glory. There are some things that we cannot explain with words. It goes on with a definition of “a depth of assurance and confidence that ignites a cheerful heart.” Since I have fellowship with God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, I have fellowship with you, then I have an inner gladness that is overflowing; but not only that, but we have a deep sense of assurance and the confidence that ignites something or explodes in our hearts and in our lives so that we have a joyful attitude. That's so important that we understand that if we don't have fellowship and we do not have fellowship with God and our brothers and sisters, then we cannot have a heart that is overflowing with joy. We cannot have a heart that is ignited with cheerfulness. It's so important that we see what brings joy in our hearts. Things don't bring joy.

When you get up on Christmas morning, I don't care what you open up, it is not going to bring joy to your heart, but fellowship with God does. An intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ does bring joy to your heart. Things don't do that. People in general don't do that. You can have the greatest husband, the greatest wife, you can have the greatest job, the greatest children ever born; but that will not bring an inner gladness in your heart and that will not ignite in you a joyful heart. An intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ will do those things.

It goes on in the definition and says this: “*A cheerful heart that leads to cheerful behavior.*” If I have fellowship with God then I have within me a deep sense of assurance and confidence. We have a deep inner gladness. All these things will lead to a cheerful behavior if I have an intimate relationship with Him then that will lead to a joyful attitude and a joyful behavior in my life.

The happiest people on earth are people that are living in the Will of God. The most miserable on earth are people that have been saved that are living outside the Will of God.

When you and I have an intimate relationship with Him, when I know who He is, and I know He's my Savior then we have things in common and we can fellowship and

have a joyful behavior. We won't always have a frown on our face. We won't always have a chip on our shoulder. We won't always be mad at the world. If I have fellowship with God then my behavior will prove that because I will be a cheerful person. That's what the writer, John, wants us to understand is that so many times our attitude is not what it needs to be. If I don't have the right relationship with God then my behavior is not going to be what it needs to be. That's progressive. If I don't have the relationship then I can't have a joyful behavior. If I don't have the right relationship, then my heart is not going to be filled with joy.

He says, *“And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.”*

It goes on and says this, *“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”* When you look at what he is saying here, he is telling us that in God is light. There is no darkness in God. There is no sin. There is no deception. There is no evil with God. Where God is, God exposes all things that are around Him that are in darkness. Because God is light, He exposes things that are in darkness. If we come in here tonight and the lights are off, we can't see anything; but when we flip the light switch on then we can see what is here because the lights are on.

The Bible says, *“...declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”* He is telling us that God is Holy, righteous, there is no sin about God (he uses the word “darkness”) there is no evil about God. When we look at things the way that they are and look at God, being the light, and in Him is no darkness; then that will tell us something about the nature of Almighty God, who He is, and what He does in our lives and in the world. He exposes evil and brings to light things that we cannot see; not only in the world, but in our own lives.

When you read the Bible, when you hear someone preach, or when you hear a song on the radio; aren't you glad the Holy Spirit of God can take the Word that may be sung, or the Word that may be preached and show us something in our hearts and in our lives by shining the light in there to show us the error of our way. Light does that. Light exposes the error in our lives. Light exposes the error in the world. It shows how wicked and how sinful this world is and there is no darkness or no sin with God. There is nothing about God that is sinful in His nature.

The Bible says, *“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth.”* That's very plain. If we say that we have an intimate relationship with God, and the Bible says, *“...and walk in darkness...”* or walk in the sin and wickedness of the world the Bible that *“we lie, and do not the truth.”* We have

the misconception in that we think that we can live in sin and still yet have fellowship with God. That's an impossibility! God has nothing to do with or does not fellowship with darkness. I cannot have an intimate relationship with Him and live in sin. When I say that then I lie.

It goes on to say, "*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*" Jesus walked in the light, which means that He was doing the Will of His Father. He did exactly what God said for Him to do. "...*if we walk in the light as He is in the light...*" that is telling us just as Jesus walked in the Will of His Father, if we walk in the Will of the Lord for us ("if we walk in the light, as he is in the light...") we have fellowship with one another. That's not a maybe, that's not an "if" but if I walk in the Will of God as Jesus walked in the Will of God then there is no problem having fellowship with God's people. If I'm not walking in the Will of God, then I can't have fellowship with you, but if I am walking in the Will of God as Jesus walked in the Will of God then I cannot help but have fellowship with those that are walking in the Will of God. If we are not having fellowship, it is because our relationship with God is not right.

If we walk in the same way that Jesus walked in His Father's Will, we have fellowship with one another. He says, "*the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*" Isn't it great to be clean? Isn't it great to know that there is no sin in your life tonight? There nothing like living like that. Does that mean that we are perfect? No! Does that mean that we always think right? No! It's great to know that all of our sins have been forgiven. It's great to know that we have been cleansed, made clean, by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It says, "*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*" The word "confess" is a good word. It means if we agree with God that we have sinned, He is faithful and just to forgive us. Sometimes we don't want to admit that we sin. When we do what we do and we know it's wrong; God convicts us and shows us that we are wrong; a lot of times we won't agree with God that we have sinned. When God says that we have sinned, when we will agree with that, when we will confess that; then God is faithful and just to forgive us of our sin. When I agree with God that I have sinned (He's talking about people that have been saved) then He is faithful and just to forgive me.

He says, "...*and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*" Isn't it great that we have a God that not only saves us and writes our name in His book, but as we go through this life we do mess up, as we go through this life we do sin; but isn't it great that when we just simply agree with God that we have sinned then isn't it great that He will do that.

To know that we are not perfect people; to know that there is forgiveness and forgiveness is in Jesus Christ.

He says, *“If we say that we have no sin...”* we make Him a liar. The Bible says that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. If we say that we have no sin, if we say that we have not sinned; we make Him a liar.

I have talked to many people over the years and they will tell me, “I don't need to get saved. I don't do anything bad. I'm a pretty good fellow.” God's Word says that we have all sinned. If we try to convince God or anyone that we have not sinned then we make God a liar. We are saying that God doesn't know what He is talking about. God does know what He is talking about because we have all sinned. We all mess up. It continues, *“...and his word is not in us.”*

It is great to know that we have a Savior that loves not only does He love us but He wants us to be happy. He wants our lives to be filled with joy. When I have fellowship with Him, when I have an intimate relationship with Him; then I can have fellowship with Him, I can have fellowship with those folks that believe God and live as they should be.

Does that mean that we will always get along with everybody that goes to church? No! Because everybody that goes to church does not have an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. Just because their name is on the church book and just because they participate in things, that doesn't mean that we can have fellowship with them. To have fellowship with somebody then we have something in common with them. Some people that go to church, we don't have anything in common with them because a lot of folk has not been born again.

We need to strive to get along with people. We can't have fellowship with God and have fellowship with the world too. We can't have fellowship with God's people and have fellowship with the worldly people. It is impossible to do that.

The world will sell you out. People that are living in the Will of God that loves the Lord Jesus Christ, they will stand beside of you when its all falling apart they will be there with you; when it looks like there is no way out, people that loves the Lord Jesus Christ they will be there with you. They may not get you out of the problems that you are in, but they will hold your hand, they will cry with you, they will help you all that they can. I appreciate people like that because we have the same the Father. We belong to the same family. We are going to the same heaven. We are going to the same city. That's a great thing to know.