

A Study of 1 John
“How do we REALLY know that we are Walking in the Light?”

Review from Previous Lessons

We can know when we are walking in the light!

John the Apostle told in 1 John 1:7 that if we are walking in the light as Jesus is in the light, we are in fellowship with Jesus and God the Father. That is the greatest thought that human minds can grasp, that God will have His continual mercies on those who are continually walking with Jesus.

The difficulty is “knowing” for sure whether we are walking in the light with Jesus. All the salvation is no good if you cannot “know” whether or not you have it. This was the whole reason why John was writing this letter to the Christians, for the Gnostics had convinced man that they were not in a “walking” relationship with Jesus, hence lost from God. Jesus, through His inspired man-servant John, provided us with a series of “Lightmus” tests to confirm whether they had a PH “Pure and Holy” relationship with the Lord. The walk is not referring to the moving of feet as it is the correct mindset of the Christ.

Lightmus Test #1: Holding to the Correct View of Jesus

If we are ever going to have any assurance of where we stand with salvation in Christ, then we must have the correct perspective of Jesus. He did come in the flesh; He is the Son of God; He is the Christ ; He is the Propitiation for our sins. We cannot be who we are in Jesus without the correct perspective of Jesus. That should raise the confidence level of any Christian.

Lightmus Test #2: Holding to the Correct View of Sin

If we are ever going to have confidence in salvation through Jesus, then we must hold to the correct view perspective of what role sin plays in our lives. We must have the “same word” about our sins that God has about our sins.

- God is saying that we are a sinner in need of forgiveness through His Son Jesus. Are we “same wording” this?
- God is saying that we have to be repentant about our sins. Are we sharing the “same word” this with Him?
- God is saying that we are never going to be perfect in the way we live in this life. Are we “same wording” this?
- God is saying that true salvation is not one that you enter into and leave continuously every time you sin, for there is sin unto death and sin not unto death (1 John 5:16-17). Are we in agreement with God about this?
- God is saying that the Christian who practices sin, loves the world, hates the brethren, denies the Christ is participating in *sins leading to death*. Are we “same wording” this with God?
- God is saying that the ones who are continuously walking in the light are continuously being forgiven of their sins and being continuously cleansed from all unrighteousness. Are we “same wording” with our Father?

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From the Hugo McCord New Testament

- 1 John 1:7 –“But if we are walking in the light as he is in the light, we continue in fellowship with one another; and the blood of Jesus his Son continues to cleanse us from every sin.
- 1 John 1:9 “If we continue to confess our sins, he is dependable and righteous to forgive us our sins...”

Without a doubt, there is a continuing factor associated with a continual forgiveness. It is called a continual walk. They go hand and hand, for it is the nature of the covenant which we are in with our Lord. *Romans 6:4, “Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”*

Something to think about concerning sin and the walk:

I want to stress a thought about this walk in relation to sin before moving on. We must remember that the walk is not defined by an individual bad step along the way, but a good life’s journey as one awaits heaven in the future. It is not a single moment of weakness or even a series of bad days, but a demonstrated life-long perspective of being God-centered and striving to walk a pure life for Him.

Thanks be to God that He will be looking at the whole picture and not just a glimpse. When God sees the life of the Christian, He knows all the actions, the righteousness, the thoughts and the intentions of the heart. We are too close to the picture to really see it clearly, but God saw it all. *Hebrews 4:13, And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.*

Our actions always speak louder than words and it is ultimately by our actions against a sinful life that we confidently KNOW that we KNOW God. That is what John was saying the whole time.

- John 3:18-22 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. ¹⁹ We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him ²⁰ in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things. ²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²² and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

We are going to have to trust Him at one time or another to get us through concerning this walk, but do not stop no matter what obstacle awaits before you. Do not take the path of *sin leading to death* as discussed in 1 John 5, for you have come too far for it to end that way. In a like manner, please be careful not to think that YOU earned it, because you will also be disappointed to find where that ends as well. God saved you to walk with His Son and at some point you must fully surrender to Him in this way.

- 2 Corinthians 12:9 And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.”

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- 2 Timothy 1:12 (KJV) “...for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”
- Philippians 1:6 *For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*
- Philippians 4:13 {YOU} can do all things through Him who strengthens {YOU} and that is Christ who saved you from your sins.
- 1 John 2:12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name’s sake. ¹³ I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. ¹⁴ I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Look at it from God’s perspective. If we are walking in the light with His Son Jesus, then we can have a great confidence in salvation from our sins if we so desire it.

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

If that is your story, then praise God! With this in mind, let us begin the third “Lightmus Test” of 1 John in order to even further build some assurance in your heart.

III. Correct Perspective of World

- 1John 2:15-17 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷ The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

We must make sure that our relationship with the world is not an overwhelming one. If we are not careful, it can have devastating effects on the confidence and outcome of the Christian.

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A) Do not love the World.

We are told by John not to love the world nor the things in the world. We do not have to be a Solomon to know that the world is full of things that are worldly. That is where the definition of this word finds its meaning. We are not to love the worldly ways that are all around us. This is truly a “Lightmus” Test that we can fail and the result could be disastrous to our assurance and deadly to our soul.

B) The World is Temporary.

We are told that the world is passing away and the lust thereof. It is hard to imagine that all this will be gone at some time in the future, but it most defiantly will.

- 2 Peter 3:7, But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.” (KJV)
- 2 Peter 3:10, “...the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.
- 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8, “...when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, ⁸ dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.”

Does that make you sad knowing that the world which we live in will cease to exist? Does it make you sad that all those routines, earthly joys and comforts will be erased? If it does, then you must ask yourself, “Am I in love with the world?”

This World is not My Home

This world is not my home, I'm just passing through.
My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue.
The angels beckon me from Heaven's open door
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.

They're all expecting me and that's one thing I know.
My Savior pardoned me and now I onward go.
I know He'll take me through, though I am weak and poor.
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.

Just up in Glory Land we'll live eternally.
The Saints on every hand are shouting victory.
Their song of sweetest praise drifts back from Heaven's shore
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.

Chorus

O Lord you know I have no friend like you. If Heaven's not my home, then Lord what will I do?
The angels beckon me from Heaven's open door. And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.

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C) The World is full of Temptation.

John identifies to us the inner workings of Satan and the world of temptation. He has three primary ways that he tries to work the world into our hearts and minds that we must be aware of.

1) Lust of the Flesh

There are many things that allowed the world to creep into a relationship with us simply because we are fleshly in nature.

- Sexuality: God invented this one, but we keep seeking to re-make it to fit our fleshly desires. Fornication, adultery, homosexuality, phone sex and cyber-sex are just a some of the many sexual worldly treasures that the world is enticing your flesh with.
- Drugs and Alcohol: Ask the drunkard and the drug addict how much their flesh is craving the fix. They will tell you that they will die if they don't get it. That is lust of the flesh.
- Greed: Ask the man who has it all if he still wants more. One tycoon in the 1930s was asked when enough id enough. He replied, “My motto has always been just one more dollar. That is lust of the flesh.
- Gluttony: Ask those of us that are fighting gluttony what the lust of the flesh is like. When we eat more than our body is calling for, this is our flesh warring against the spirit. It is our love of food, a natural desire of the flesh, which has us eating in all the wrong ways and at all the wrong times.

2) Lust of the Eyes

Need I mention all the things of life which and it ends up throwing us off our game. The world is filled with so many ills which want to capture our eyes just for a moment.

Pornography:

- Everyday dress and “not-dress” of the culture
- Strip Clubs
- Magazines
- Internet Porn
- Romance Novels
- Graphic Videos
- Nasty infomercials on television.

Entertainment:

- Hours spent in front of the television instead of the Bible.
- Big dollars being spent taking our date to a movie, but oh how thou art brokest when the offering dish come aroundeth.
- Knowing more members of the dysfunctional made up families from television world than the members of your own church family.
- Spending more time with the non-Christians on the golf course, race track and professional football teams instead of the saints who are suffering in the hospital.
- Lust of the eyes can even be children's sports: It is not the children nor the sports that is the problem, but likely parent twho has consistently chosen a path of allowing the

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children and the sports to come before a healthy relationship with God. If that is the case in your life, then that is lust of the eyes.

3) The Pride of Life

It is the “me-centric” versus the “God-centric”. Just like “I” is in the middle of the word pride and selfish, the pride of life is that which puts the “I” before the God. To remember this, keep in mind that the middle letter in pride is I. There are many ways to cultivate a love for the world by taking this path.

- It is the pride of life that calls us to break out of humility and be stiff-necked with pride in rebellion.
- Often when someone lies or brags or exaggerates, they are finding a home for the pride of life to exalt them instead of God.
- When someone fails to trust that God will meet their needs and hoards things, this can be the pride of life.
- When someone takes up gambling to get rich quick while neglecting his family, this is the pride of life.
- When you allow the blessings of your life to control your life, this is the pride of life.
- Anything in our life that calls for our independence from God falls into this category. Whether it is wealth built on Wall Street or health built in a gym or strength built on a battlefield, it can all be PRIDE OF LIFE if the money and the health and the might are not reserved for God and His glory.

Many of the finest people to have ever walked the earth have fallen for these three ways of the world.

- Genesis 3:6, “When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.”
- Joshua 7:20-21, So Achan answered Joshua and said, “*Truly, I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel, and this is what I did: ²¹ ...I saw...I coveted...I took...I hid...*”
- 2 Samuel 11:2-4, “David...saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance...³ David sent and inquired about the woman...and took her, and...lay with her...”
- James 1:14-16, “But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. ¹⁵ Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.”

Jesus did not fall for this trick of Satan!

Matthew 4:1-11, “...Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.”

A. He was tempted with the LUST OF THE FLESH: Bread before God!

And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”

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B. He was tempted with the LUST OF THE EYES: Image before God!

“If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, ‘HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU’; and ‘ON *their* HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.’ ”

C. He was tempted with the PRIDE OF LIFE: Independence before God!

Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; ⁹ and he said to Him, “All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.”

Where all others failed, Jesus excelled because He is our trailblazer! This was early in the earthly ministry and set the stage for a new way to look at the world.

- John 1:9-10, “There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.”
- John 7:7, “The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil. “
- John 12:31, “Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.
- John 14:27, “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.
- John 14:1-4, “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. ² “In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³ “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also. ⁴ “And you know the way where I am going.”
- John 15:18-19, “If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹ “If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.
- John 16:8-11, “And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; ¹¹ and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.
- John 18:36, Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.”
- 1 John 3:1, “See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. “

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Do you see Jesus as the light of the world? Does He possess the message, the method and the means to come into your life and set you on a confidence course called *walking in the light*? Do you feel like there is something better than this place here on earth? Are you ready to surrender yourself to a plan that not only gives eternal life, but also a better way of life, for you and your children and your friends and all that be afar off?

They might be laying workers off at the plant, at the office and down at the store, but heaven is looking to bring on some good men and women who don't mind a good walk in the light. The benefits are great and I am sure you will be pleased to be a child of God if you so choose today. The world won't like it, but that is okay, because this all is temporary for them in the end.

They are enemies of the cross of Christ,¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;²¹ who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. (Philippians 3:18-21) Will you not join the kingdom of God this day and change your entire meaning of life? Will you not come forward and make the good pledge to renew your faith and walk in Christ? Is there not one soul that will not re-assure their salvation this morning and share the joy with the others? Please, don't put it off. These things that John wrote so that your joy be complete. Think about that as you resist response to the invitation call.