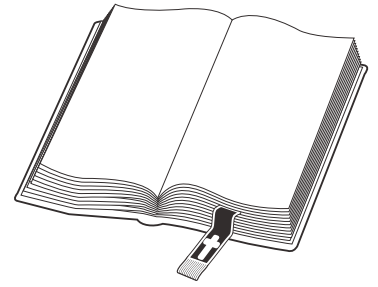


Walking in the Light or Walking in Darkness

"Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it."
Psalms 119:35



Number 20 in the series "The Joy of Obeying God's Word"

1 John 1:5-10 reads, *"This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us."*

Beloved, I have read, prayed, studied, and taught this scripture many times since I trusted in Christ as my Savior! It clearly taught me the blessing and benefits of walking in the light as Jesus does: (1) we will have true fellowship with each other, (2) if we confess our sin, He will be faithful to forgive and cleanse us in His blood, and (3) if we claim to fellowship with Him and walk in darkness, we are lying. We are deceiving ourselves. We're making the Lord out to be a liar.

In all of our lives there are times when we give in to the weakness of our flesh and the temptations of the devil. However, true believers will be convicted by the Holy Spirit. They will have no peace or joy until they repent, which means not only being sorry for their sins but also turning from their sins and stopping them. Proverbs 4:14-15 reads, *"Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evil. Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn away from it and pass on."*

Beloved, our Lord makes His will and warnings very clear to us. He loves us. He created us. He gave His life for us. He knows that if we choose to walk in the dark path of wickedness, it will lead us away from Him, and He does not want that. Proverbs 4:18-19 reads, *"But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble."* Before I became a follower of Jesus, I walked many dark paths of sin that was done to me and the sin of my choices. The dark paths of wickedness and evil that I chose to walk in included committing murder through an abortion I had two years before I met my husband. That was a dark path. I thank the Lord for His AMAZING GRACE that drew me to repent, to take full responsibility for my actions, and to receive His love, mercy, and forgiveness. He cleansed me in His precious blood.

Beloved, if we stay close to Jesus daily, we will be sure to walk in the light, and the path will become brighter every time we walk in obedience to Him and to His Word. Is the path you are walking leading you closer to Jesus or away from Him? Are you willing to look at the evidence? Look at the things you are doing. Are you becoming closer to Jesus, or are you wandering into dark, dangerous paths? I beseech you to turn from every dark path and walk in the light. Only then will you have peace.

— Janice McBride

All scripture is taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.

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