

All Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.

April 11, 2009

WALK
in the LIGHT
Mini-Book
Part 4

Printed for:
HANDS FOR JESUS
P.O. BOX 18655
MILWAUKEE, WI 53218-0655

For more information visit our Web sites at:

www.handsforjesus.cc
www.handsforjesus.org

2009 by Merle E. Koepke
All Rights Reserved

Introduction

This booklet is Part 4 of **“Walk in the Light.”** For those who have not read Parts 1,2 & 3, it would be very helpful if they would get a copy and read them first. The information in Parts 1,2 & 3 is very important to understanding this Part. Parts 1,2 & 3 can be downloaded freely from our Web sites, at:

www.handsforjesus.cc www.handsforjesus.org

In 1 John 1:7 it says, **“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.”** Why is it so important that we have fellowship with God?

As we go back to 1 John 1:3, it says, **“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”**

By this we see that our fellowship begins by having fellowship with the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus is also called **“the Word of God,”** or **“the Word of Life”** (John 1:1; 1 John 1:1, 5:7; Rev. 19:13). To have true fellowship with the Father and the Son, we must continue to study the Scriptures and believe the written Word of God.

Without the written Word of God we cannot have true fellowship with the Father and the Son. What the written Word of God tells us, is the same as if God the Father spoke to us audibly from heaven. What God is saying to Christians today is already written in His Word (2 Peter 1:19-21). Therefore, to have true fellowship with the Father and the Son we must believe the written Word of God.

But, there are three persons in the Godhead. In 1 John 5:7 it says, **“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”**

To have fellowship with God (all three persons of the Godhead), we must also have fellowship with the Holy Spirit. This fellowship with the Holy Spirit is so important that Jesus made mention of it in the Gospel of John, saying, **“It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me”** (John 6:45). We cannot come to Jesus, unless the Father draws us by His Holy Spirit. Jesus said, **“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day”** (John 6:44). We cannot become born again into the family of God unless the Holy Spirit makes us a new creature in Christ. In John 3:6 it says, **“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”**

That which is **“born of the Spirit,”** is born of the Holy Spirit into the family of God. John 1:13 says, **“Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”** The work of the Holy Spirit is very important in our lives as a Christian.

Jesus said in John 16:13, **“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”** As we have seen in “Part 3 of Walk in the Light” according to 1 John 2:27 the Holy Spirit is to be our teacher. We are not to be taught by men, but by the Holy Spirit Himself. It says, **“But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.”**

Let us never neglect the teaching of the Holy Spirit in our lives. He is our teacher, sent from the Father and the Son, that we will know the Truth from the written Word of God.

WALK IN THE LIGHT

It is very clear in 1 John 2:27 that the Apostle John is talking about the Holy Spirit abiding in Christians. It is also very clear that the Holy Spirit is to be our teacher, not men.

Therefore, if Christians are to “walk in the light, as God is in the light,” they need more than just the written Word of God, they also need the anointing of the Holy Spirit abiding in them, **“to teach them all things.”**

What a privilege it is to have God the Holy Spirit teaching us all things. This is an example of God (the highest of all became a servant to the lowest). God Himself (in the Holy Spirit), came down from heaven to become our teacher.

That is an example of **“the Love of God.”** God is love, and God set for us an example of Christian living today, that we lay our lives down for others, and become servants to those to whom we love.

I do not believe a Christian can **“walk in the light, as God is in the light,”** without the anointing of the Holy Spirit abiding in them. This is my honest opinion considering all that the New Testament teaches concerning “the Kingdom of God.” I cannot see how that Christians can be “led by the Holy Spirit” without the anointing of the Holy Spirit abiding in them.

Continuing on from what was covered in the first three parts of this mini-book series, it says in 1 John 3:3, **“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”**

Christians need to be encouraged to continue on, even when we see others fall by the wayside, following after the world and the things of this world. Remember, it said in 1 John 2:15, **“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”** The world does not love Christians, because Christians are not of this world (John 17:16). The world does not understand true Christians, because true Christians do not partake of their deeds. Let us be of good courage, for when the LORD appears, **“...we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is”** (1 John 3:2).

In 1 John 3:3 it says, **“And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”** It is so important that Christians purify themselves. We see in Revelation 3:4,5 that there were only a few in the Church in Sardis that did not defile their garments. These few will not have their names blotted out of the Book of Life.

Christians, there is nothing in this world worth holding onto, or seeking after. We must “walk in the light as He is in the light” if we want to spend eternity in heaven.

How do we walk in the light? We keep up our fellowship with the Father and the Son, by studying the Word of God and being doers of the Word, not just hearers only (1 John 3:18; James 1:23,25). We must keep up our fellowship with the Holy Spirit so that He can help, guide, comfort, lead, and teach us all things.

We must keep up our fellowship with other Christians by looking upon the needs of others

before our own needs. In Matthew 23:11, Jesus said, **“But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.”** This is the example that God set for us in sending His Son, Jesus Christ into this world that we could become Children of God, and spend eternity with Him. After Jesus did all that He could to set us free of the works of the Devil, God sent the Holy Spirit down from heaven to be our helper, guide, comforter, leader, and teacher.

God, who is the greatest in all of creation, became a servant to man, whom He created in the beginning. Until Christians take the same example of becoming a servant to others, they will never “walk in the light as God is in the light.” God is love!

According to 1 Corinthians 13:5, “Love does not seek its own without considering the needs of others.” In 1 Corinthians 10:24 it says, **“Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth.”** This DOES NOT MEAN “seek to get another persons wealth.” In Philippians 2:4 it says, **“Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.”** If anyone has any idea of how things are done in heaven, and how people and God walk together in heaven, you know that LOVE is the first and most important of all the fruit of the Spirit in heaven. God is love, and all who are of God walk in love.

If Christians are to inherit eternity in heaven, they must walk in love one toward another here on earth. That is one thing that is stressed throughout the first Epistle of John. As it says in 1 John 3:15,16, **“Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him...Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”**

In 1 John 3:7 it says, **“Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.”** Jesus said in Matthew 7:16, **“Ye shall know them by their fruits...”** Christians must walk in righteousness, and in love. The world should know that we are Christians by our love and our walking in righteousness.

In 1 John 3:8 we are told that, **“He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”** The word “committeth” used in this verse is from the Greek word “poieo.” That Greek word “poieo” in this verse is in the “present tense” therefore, it would mean “continue.” By this, it should have been translated **“He that continues in sin is of the devil...”** We know that all Christians do sin. That we were told in 1 John 1:8,10.

In 1 John 3:9 it says, **“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”** The words “doth not,” in this verse are also in the “present tense,” this means it is saying, **“Whosoever is born of God doth not (continue to live) in sin...”** Also, in this verse the words “cannot sin,” are also in the “present tense,” meaning **“cannot continue in sin.”**

In 1 John 3:10 it says, **“In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.”** Our fellowship with God is manifest in the way we treat our brothers and sisters in the LORD. Those who do not love their brothers and sisters in the LORD are walking in darkness. They are out of fellowship with God. Verse eleven says, **“For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.”**

Then in 1 John 3:14,15 it says, **“We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death...Whosoever**

hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.” Then once again we are reminded of the Love of God in verse sixteen, which says, **“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”**

In 1 John 3:22-24 it sums up on “how to get our prayers answered.” It says, **“And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight...And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment...And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.”**

When Christians are not getting their prayers answered, one of the first things they should look for is, are they keeping the LORD’s commandments to love one another? If Christians are not walking in love one toward another, God is not obligated to answer their prayers. They can pray and pray all they want, but their prayers will be of none-effect. They prevent God from answering their prayers by not walking in love one toward another.

When Christians are not walking in love one toward another, they are walking in darkness. God cannot have fellowship with darkness. Those who walk in darkness are out of fellowship with God and their prayers may not be answered.

This is very interesting considering what Jesus said in John 14:13,14. It says, **“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son...If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.”**

Today, (2009) there are many Christians who are out of work. Many are losing their homes, and are not finding work. Yet, God’s Word is still true today. God’s arm is not short. God is able to keep His Word. God has never lied, and will always keep His promises.

Let me tell you of a brother in the LORD, back in 2003, who needed work. Somewhere in late July or early August of 2003, this brother in the LORD called me. We went out to lunch after Church one Sunday. While at lunch, he said to me, *“Merle, I don’t know what I’m going to do. I don’t have enough money coming in to pay my bills. I’ve been in business for thirty-years. I keep up my advertising, I’m doing everything the way I always did, but the work and the money are not coming in.”* I said to him, *“Why don’t you go over to John 14:13,14, and ask the LORD to bring in work for you, that you have enough to pay your bills”?* He looked at me, and I said, *“Just ask the LORD to bring in the work you need, and then thank and praise Him for doing it.”* *“Do this every morning, thank Him and praise Him, and He will bring in the work you need”!*

About two weeks later, he called me and told me, he had all the work he could do, and was making a lot of money to pay his bills with. A number of times over the next months he told me, *“The work is coming in and the money is coming,”* and he would say, *“And you and I know it’s not my advertising.”*

On January 15th, 2004, He called me and said, *“Merle, I just wanted to tell you, I have to pay over \$3,000 additional taxes today.”* He made more money in the last six months than he made all year the year before (2002). Then he told me, he only made about \$10,000 in the first six month of 2003, but in the last six months of 2003 he made over \$40,000.

God does answer our prayers if we are walking in the light as He is in the light (1 John 1:7). Yet, if Christians are not walking in the light of the Scriptures, God is not obligated to answer their

prayers.

We must also understand that when Christians pray amiss God is not obligated to answer their prayers. In James 4:1-4 says, **“From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?...Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not...Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts...Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”**

James is speaking of the same thing the Apostle John was saying in 1 John 2:15-17, **“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him...For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world...And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”**

Christians who love the world, and the things of this world cannot have fellowship with God. These two are contrary to each other. The world is in darkness, whereas God is in the light. Light and darkness cannot have fellowship with each other.

In 1 John 4:1, it says, **“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”**

This verse is very important to understand. Christians need wisdom, knowledge, and understanding to live in this world, and overcome the works of darkness.

Many Christians have overlooked this verse and gone right on into the next verse without understanding. Every statement made in 1 John 4:1 is very important to understand. It starts by saying, **“Beloved, believe not every spirit...”** Christians who do not “study their Scriptures” will easily end up living according to the flesh thinking they are doing what God desires of them. This is the opposite of what God desires of Christians today.

Let us start with just a few facts concerning Christians today. Everything in existence has two sides to it. There is the front side and the back side. There is the inside and the outside. We could go on mentioning the two sides of everything. But for now let us look at what God is speaking of in the First Epistle of John.

God is talking about walking in the light, and not walking in darkness. These two are opposites of each other. If Christians do not understand what God means by light and darkness they will never understand the written Word of God. If they do not understand the written Word of God they will not understand God. If they do not understand God, they will not understand the Devil. Finally, if they do not understand God or the Devil, they are headed for eternity in hell and do not know it.

God is love (agape). God will not force anyone to do His will. The Devil does not have the love (agape) of God in him. The Devil will force people to do his will, for he is the god of this world, that we live in.

Where there is the love (agape) of God there is no forcing of anyone to do anything. Where the love (agape) of God is not operating, there is a forcing to do the will of the flesh, which is contrary to the will of God.

The Devil operates from the flesh, whereas God operates from our spirit. These two are opposites of each other (Gal. 5:16,17).

When a person is born again of the Spirit, they are translated from the flesh into the Spirit of Christ. Romans 8:9 says, **“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”** Then Galatians 5:25 says, **“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”**

Walking in the flesh is the same as walking in darkness. Walking in the spirit is walking in the light. Therefore, if Christians continue to walk and live the way they walked and lived before they were born again, they are walking in darkness, and following the ways of the Devil. We cannot follow God and follow the Devil at the same time, these two are opposites of each other.

All throughout the Old Testament times, men “were not born again of the Spirit.” They were natural men, walking after the flesh. In the New Covenant, Christians are “born again” of the Spirit. We are to walk after the Spirit, and not after the flesh (Rom. 8:1).

If the Devil can use Christians to control other Christians by walking after the flesh, and teaching others to walk after the flesh the way the Old Testament people walked, he has them right where he wants them, following his spirits that control men upon this earth.

There is a major difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament. There is a major difference between walking after the flesh and walking after the Spirit.

There is no place in the Old Testament where it tells people to “walk after the Holy Spirit,” for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, being that man was not born again of the Spirit. Those who live by the Old Testament are still walking after the flesh and thinking they are walking after the Spirit.

What happened in the Old Testament happened in the natural, and is only a type and shadow of things that are happening in the New Covenant, whereby we are to be walking after the Spirit and not after the flesh.

Until Christians understand spiritual things, they cannot walk after the Spirit. Yet, Christians cannot understand spiritual things unless the Holy Spirit gives them understanding. In 1 Corinthians 2:12-14 says,

“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God...Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual...But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

This is not written just for a few who think they are hearing from God. This is written for every born again Christian. Every born again Christian should be receiving “spiritual discernment,” from the Holy Spirit within them.

If a person has never been to China, and has never seen any Chinese money, how would they know if the money they receive is not counterfeit? You can only know if money is counterfeit by knowing the true.

Likewise, Christians cannot **“try the spirits,”** unless they know the true Holy Spirit. There are many spirits in this world, but only One Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is God with the Father and the Son. God is Love (agape), therefore the Holy Spirit is also Love (agape). Love (agape) never controls by force, but always leads, guides, comforts, helps, and teaches us from within our spirit where God dwells.

The flesh operates from our mind, which is in our head, whereas our spirit is in our belly

(John 7:38). Being there is a vast difference between our head and our belly (our mind and our spirit), we must learn to receive the discernment of spirits from our spirit, not from our head. Controlling spirits operate from our mind, but God operates from our spirit.

There is a major difference between the natural man (born of the flesh) and the spiritual man (born of the Spirit). We cannot walk in the light by walking after the flesh. These two are contrary to each other. Darkness cannot dwell in the light. Light destroys darkness.

The **“...lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life...”** are all of the flesh (1 John 2:16). The Love (agape) of God cannot have fellowship with the **“...lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life...”**

Those who love the world and the things of this world cannot walk after the Spirit, for the Holy Spirit will never lead anyone to walk after the flesh.

To “walk in the light,” we must “walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh.” We must know the difference between that which is of God and that which is of the flesh.

For more information on **“Walk in the Light,”** get all the other parts of this Mini-Book series. Go to our Web sites at:

www.handsforjesus.cc

www.handsforjesus.org

Download all the free books you desire. All books are free by downloading.