

What it means to walk in the
LIGHT

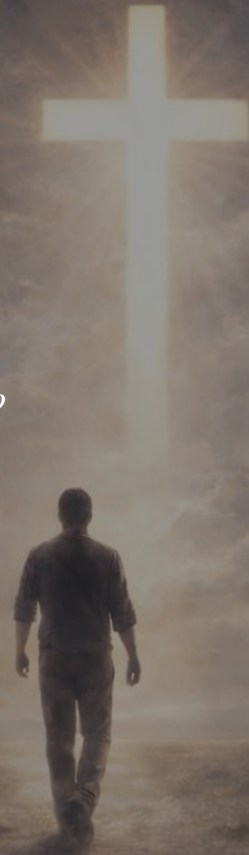


H.E.A.R.T.

The Apostle John explained “walking in the Light” in this way in the Book of First John:

“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. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 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. 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. 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”

1 John 1:5-2:2 (NKJV)



H.E.A.R.T.



John wrote, *“but if we walk in the light.”*

From this phrase we understand that walking in the light is a possibility for us. How does John explain making this possibility a reality? That is the question that we will answer in this pamphlet. We will use the acronym **H.E.A.R.T.** to explain the heart of how we can walk in the light and partake of salvation according to the Bible.

From where does this message of life come?

John explained the source of his message. The source is Jesus Christ Himself. John passed on to us important spiritual truths that Jesus taught him.

John wrote: *“This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you.”* 1 John 1:5

The beginning of the message answers the question:

Who is God?

H—Holiness

God is light. He is totally holy. There is no darkness—or sin and evil—in Him.



John wrote: *“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.”* 1 John 1:5.

God, who created the heavens and the earth, is morally pure and holy. He is described as *“righteous and upright.”* In the verse above, John used the metaphor of light to explain that God is flawless and radiant in all his perfections.

The question naturally follows: How do we as sinful people, relate to this perfectly holy God?

Somewhat counter-intuitively, understanding how we might relate to a holy God begins by recognizing our sinful condition—without offering any excuses.

E—Evildoing

All of humanity live with a deeply imbedded sinful condition. John calls it *“walking in darkness.”*

What is sin?

Sin is disobeying the righteous law of God.

Evildoing describes our nature of sinfulness and our sinful behaviors. John explained three deceptive mindsets as he dismantled humanity’s false views of sin.

He exposed the hypocrite—the person who says one thing while living in the opposite way. In verse 6 John wrote: *“If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”* John rebuked the intellectual who denies the concept of sin altogether. In verse 8 he wrote: *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”*

Lastly John warned the prideful person who denies that they have ever sinned. In verse 10 he wrote: *“If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”*

John explained that these three misconceptions involve three deceptions: lying to others, deceiving ourselves, and calling God a liar. Further, each falsehood alienates us from God’s truth and His word. If we believe any of these three lies, we are *“walking in darkness.”* Our sinful condition represents our greatest problem!



Although we were born “*walking in darkness*,” God made a way for us to “*walk in the light*.” This new way was instituted by the blood of Jesus Christ when He died on the cross for our sins.

A—Atonement.

Jesus Christ lived a sinless life and died a sinner’s death for us. Three days later He rose again from the dead so that we can have newness of life. As a result, God promises us that the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse us from all sin—past sin, present sin, and future sin. If we look at each of these promises all at one time, they are overwhelmingly powerful.

The promise of cleansing from sin, verse 7: *“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.”*

The promise of forgiveness of sins and cleansing from all unrighteousness, verse 9: *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

The promise of propitiation, complete appeasement God’s rightful wrath against us for our sins, chapter 2, verses 1-2: *“And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”* Jesus worked an amazing cleansing for mankind on the cross, making Himself the propitiation for the sins of the world.

The one condition for forgiveness is that we request it from the right posture—a repentant heart.



Our sin is removed under one specific condition: “if we confess our sins.” If we meet this condition of God, cleansing is promised to us.

R—Repentance

The word repentance expresses the condition laid out by John.

What is repentance?

It is turning away from our own efforts to cover up our sin and turning fully and only to the blood of Jesus for forgiveness of sins. One verse highlights our need for repentance.

Confessing to Jesus, verse 9: *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

We must acknowledge that we have sinned against a holy God. We must acknowledge that we rightfully deserve His wrath against us. Then we ask Him for forgiveness of our sins—in other words, all our known sins. *“Please forgive me, God.”* And the promise of God floods our souls with peace, *“He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* God Himself washes clean our souls from all our evildoing.



God transforms you. After you repent of your sin in prayer, God promises to help you to *“walk in the light.”*

T–Transformation

God will help you avoid sin. Jesus instantly becomes your Advocate or Lawyer before the Father. The blood of Jesus applies constant cleansing to your heart.

Walking in the light of God’s word, verse 7, *“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.”*

God doesn’t leave us to be slaves of our sin. He Himself helps us *“walk in the light.”* The “light” in this verse refers to the light of the truth and the light of His word. As we read the Bible we *“walk in the light.”* We see and learn more about the sin in our lives. We daily return to God with a repentant heart, asking again for His forgiveness. We daily receive the promise is given to us, *“the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”* Wow!

Clinging to our Advocate, chapter 2, verse 1, *“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”*

Do we sin after repenting and beginning our *“walk in the light”*? Yes, we do. It is then that we cling to Jesus, our Lawyer before the Father. We confess our sins to Him. We continue *“walking in the light,”* fully relying on Jesus our Advocate and only hope before God the Father. We cling to our Advocate allowing God to transform us to be continually more like Jesus.



So, where do you stand with God?

Do you acknowledge that you have sinned against Him? Are you willing to turn from yourself and your sinful ways and look to God? Will you ask God to cleanse you from all your sin by the blood of Jesus?

Here is a prayer that you might pray:

“O God, I confess that I am a sinner and do not walk in the truth as I should. Please forgive me for all my sins by the blood of Jesus. Help me to walk in the light of Your word. In Jesus’ holy and righteous name, Amen.”

God is faithful and just. He will forgive you all your sin, as you come to Him in humble repentance and genuine confession. He will cleanse your heart by the blood of Jesus. He will help you walk in the light of His words. More than anything else, ask God to help you find a strong Bible-believing church, so that you can keep walking in the light of God’s words.

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“Walking in the Light”

A HEART Gospel Tract

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