

## 1 John 1

The opening lines of 1st John go back to the origins of salvation through Jesus. It is the beginning of the gospel. Jesus showed up in person to deliver his message through his words and actions. We are also supposed to have actions that back up our words. This same John the apostle also wrote The Gospel of John. It has a similar opening line.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. fa- 'He was in the beginning with God. 3A11 things came into being through

Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being 1 that has come into being.

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Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. (John 1)

Read 1 John 1:1-4: Jesus is the detectable aspect i3,f God. He can be heard and

touched and seen. Jesus is the aspect of God who we can best relate to. You could

say that he is our connecting port. The original twelve apostles all saw Jesus; and

spent time with him for three years. They saw Jesus weep, and they saw him humble himself, and extend compassion to those in need. Paul was a later apostle,

who also encountered the presence of Jesus in his jail cell.

Our relationship with God dictates our impression of him. People who do not know God, act as though he is a harsh authority. That is the legalistic side of

the God's holiness against sin. There are hard consequences and cause for fear to those who have no intention of loving God or man. The Law of Moses was designed to create forced behavior amongst criminals and law-breakers. We need to connect to the relationship-side of God as friends and family. The church is the

bride of Christ. We will closely relate to the God man more than any other for eternity.

Our job is to get to know God; and then share that with others. We need to have a

regular and continuous quiet time. We are described as witnesses. You cannot share something that you are not paying attention to. We cannot share what we have disconnected from. We are like people who have immediate amnesia. As soon as we turn our attention from God and spin around towards our worldly problems we forget about what God can do. Christian growth has a lot to do with

being able to remain focused on God when we get blind-sided by disruptive and ct, unpleasant daily realities. Our tendency is to become transfixed on the problem. It

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becomes a paralyzing and debilitating thing that causes us to forget about God; and lose our capacity to sit still in peace and receive blessings.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. " If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief or evildoer, or a

[kJ troublesome meddler; 16 but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify, God in this name.' For it is time for judgment to begin

[1-1 with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome

for those who do not obey the gospel of God? hi AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, fml WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER? 19 Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right. (I Peter 1:12-19)

4, Staying focused on Jesus is our life quest. Why would God allow disruptive and unpleasant circumstances to enter our lives? We need to get to know God in a more-eternal perspective. In other words; we know him currently relative to our possessions and jobs and health and relationships. We tend to think of him as the God of my paycheck and health, etc... What happens when our source of income and closest relationships and comforting things shrink away? Do we freak out, because all of this stuff that we depend on, and cling to is nowhere in sight? Why?

Because we have not properly defined who God is in our heart. One day in heaven we will be happy without our day job and savings account. We are not healthy believers until we can be happy without all of our hoped-for stuff.

I count all things to be loss fc1 in view of the surpassing value of td-lknowing Christ

Jesus my Lord, [for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith," that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and ffi the fellowship of His sufferings,

being conformed to His death; ill- g -7 in order that I may attain to the resurrection

from the dead. (Philippians 3:8-11)

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There is less faith required for a quiet and undisturbed life. It is more

challenging

to know God as the one who rescues the drowning man, and who resuscitates us from the dead.

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you. 3 "For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; (Isaiah 43:2-3)

We cannot have the deepest confidence in God if it depends on the state of our affairs. David kept getting his stuff taken away. David kept becoming mischaracterized and wrongly-attacked until he was stabilized to shepherd Israel.

He also chose David His servant And took him from the sheepfolds; ' From [am] the care of the [an] ewes with suckling lambs. He brought him To shepherd Jacob His people, And Israel His inheritance. 72So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them with his skillful hands. (Psalm 78:69-72)

We cannot be truly joyful until we are purged of all of our own spoilers. David had repetitious personal attacks, because he needed to purge something. As long as I lose my composure over my career and this day's challenges I have not achieved God's perfect peace in the Holy Spirit. I cannot move on until these threats cannot steal my peace. Hence, we can expect to be lovingly stripped of (co,ict what matters the most until we can hold them with an open hand.

ead 1 John 1:5-10: The gospel is about life-saving words. These words are truth. They cannot be transmitted through a contrary vessel. I cannot go around effectively sharing God's healing words if I am hurting people at the same time. God tells us to compare our confessions with our actions. People will only believe a sincere witness. We can easily pick up on words which do not match actions.

These verses tell us that God is light. Turning on the light makes the

hidden things

obvious and clarified. Light is a metaphor for awareness and revelation information and truth. Coincidentally John also wrote Revelation. The opposite of light is darkness. Darkness is a metaphor for things that we are attempting to cloak or hide from the detection of others. Light also represents the things that we are not ashamed of; or wish to hide.

We are not ashamed of doing what is right; and doing so gives us confidence in our

heart. Being obedient to God and loving our neighbor is how we want to be seen

Cr) in God's eyes. The Bible tells us that God's instructions to us can be reduced to

co love for God and love for man. Light is not just a reference to seeing the truth. It

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is to practically carry out truth. Light is ultimately a metaphor for love. To say that we have fellowship with God is to suggest that we are walking into that same direction in our dealings.

Can two walk together, except they are in agreement? (Amos 3:3)

A good example of how true light must come from a sincere vessel is seen in Lucifer. Satan began as the light-bearer angel. He copies God's light. The difference is that the light that the Holy Spirit provides increases our understanding; while the false angel of light sends blinding light. In other words,

God's light is like your cars head lights which helps you drive...while Satan is like

the blinding high beam lights from oncoming cars. The one who calls himself the angel of light causes blindness to reality.

...even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled '-'to those who are perishing,' in whose

case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that

they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:3-

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Unbelievers are blind to the truth. They do not see partially because they are not

ready and willing to embrace the truth. Darkness represents the sinful and

secret

things that are deceptive or harmful or ungodly. Darkness represents our willful momentary disconnection with God. For that reason, we cannot be approaching the brightness of God while we are carrying out sinful intentions. Those two worlds are in opposite directions. You cannot be on the highway to hell if you are a son of God.

Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

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what harmony has Christ with Belial, or fil what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? 16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GO4 AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. (2 Corinthians 6:14-16)

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matter how much darkness we have; we only need to turn around and confess it to God. Light always overcomes infinite amounts of darkness.

John is telling us that those who say thy are people walking in the light must love

their neighbor (by definition). If a person is scheming against their friends, family

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cu or even their enemies they are letting go of God's hand to do so. The Holy Spirit tao ct c, will help us to pray from our enemies and those who despitefully use us. God will

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not help us conjure up a plan to damage another person; or take away what is theirs.

The Bible tells us that even believers are natural sinners; and have darkness in our flesh. Our light is in our spirit with God. For that reason we are people who have characteristics of light and darkness. How can I be a person of God's light, and still fail by carrying out some darkness and sin?

I find then thef4 principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good.

' For I joyfully concur with the law of God [0lin the inner man, 23 but I see a different law in 11the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner 141 of the law of sin which is in my members. 24 Wretched man that Jam! Who will set me free from fill the body of this death? 25Thanks be to

God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin. (Romans 7:21-25)

God knows that we are not impressive or faithful in any way. He only requires that we are honest about our need to turn from our sins. All we have to do is to turn to him and cry for help from our impossible condition. Walking in the light is all about intellectual honesty and a correct perspective.

He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who [d fear Him.' As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. " Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the LORD has compassion on those who kJ-Year Him.

" For He Himself knows I-. ?- 1 our frame; He is mindful that we are but dust.

" As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.

16 When the wind has passed over it, it is no more, And its place acknowledges it no

longer.' But the lovingkindness of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who Wfear Him, (Psalm 103:10-17)

XPeople of light see more-clearly that they are sinful; and they desperately want out of their predicament. We are liars if we do not acknowledge our sins. We need to bring our sins to his light to request help. We need to search our hearts for evil intentions and immediately rush to God with our latest sins. It is like telling your doctor that you just found another tumor. God can take it away or you can hide it; and let it eat you up. God gives us a way out.

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. 13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it." Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. (1 Corinthians 10:12-14)

Drawing close to God is like looking in a magnifying mirror. Our awareness of reality sharpens. This whole world is truly a broken place. We are truly broken people. We are like blind beggars. Things get pretty ugly upon closer inspection. Being aware of your hopelessness can cause you to lose your composure if you are

going it alone.

We are like dead men walking who need Jesus to touch us and heal us and deliver us.

There isn't a healthy spot on your body. You are not healthy from the bottom of your feet to the top of your head. You have nothing but wounds, cuts and open sores. They haven't been cleaned up or bandaged or treated with olive oil. (Isaiah 1:6)

What kind of a person would not want to know the truth about their own health? Religious people become furious when their shortcomings are revealed. Other people can have a panic attack. Light is a scary thing if your confidence is in yourself. We are not supposed to be like that. We need to recognize that God is keeping us alive, and protecting us from sin. We are to take everything to God ASAP for processing and healing. God will forgive us and give us the strength to proceed.

Don't give any part of yourself to serve sin. Don't let any part of yourself be used to do evil. Instead, give yourselves to God. You have been brought from death to life. So give every part of yourself to God to do what is right. 14 Sin will no longer control you like a master. That's because the law does not rule you. God's grace has set you free. (Romans 6:13-14)