

Approximately 40 Minutes Expository



The Word of Life: Walking in the Light

An Expository Sermon on 1 John 1:1-10

Opening Prayer:

Father God, we come before You in the mighty name of Jesus. Thank You for Your Word, which is living and active and full of truth. Lord, open our hearts today. Give us ears to hear, minds to understand, and hearts that are willing to obey. Help us not just to learn facts about You, but to truly know You, walk with You, and live in the light of Your truth. If anyone is listening that does not yet know You, please... draw them to Yourself today. And for those who do know You, deepen our fellowship,

**strengthen our faith, and purify our walk.
We ask it all in Jesus' name, Amen.**

Historical Setting:

The apostle John wrote this letter late in the first century. By this time, John was an old man, likely the last surviving apostle. He had walked with Jesus,... heard His voice,... seen His miracles,... stood near the cross, and witnessed the resurrection. John was not writing theory. He was writing truth that he had personally seen and lived. This is testimony...

This letter was written to strengthen believers and to protect the church from error. False teachers were beginning to spread dangerous ideas. Some denied that Jesus truly came in the flesh. Others claimed you could know God while continuing in darkness. Some acted as if sin was not a serious issue at all.

So John writes like a loving shepherd. He writes with tenderness, but also with boldness. He wants believers to have assurance. He wants them to know what true Christianity looks like. He wants them to understand that real fellowship with God is found only through the real Jesus Christ.

And right from the beginning, John brings us to the foundation: **Jesus is real, eternal, visible, touchable, and knowable.**

1. Jesus Christ Is the Eternal Word of Life:



(NIV)

1 John 1:1-2 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal

life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

John begins in a remarkable way. He says, **“That which was from the beginning....”**

(v.1)

He is speaking about Jesus Christ. This points us back to eternity. Before Bethlehem, before creation, before time itself, Jesus already was. He did not begin to exist in the manger. He is the **eternal Son of God.**

But John does not stop there. He says, **we heard Him, we saw Him, we looked upon Him, and our hands touched Him...** (v.1)

This is very important. Christianity is not built on myth, legend, or religious imagination. It is built on a real historical Person....**Jesus Christ.**

 John is saying,

- “We did not dream Him.
- We did not invent Him.
- We were there.”

This matters because our salvation depends on a real Savior.

- If Jesus was not truly God, He could not reveal the Father.
- If Jesus was not truly man, He could not stand in our place.

But the gospel declares that the eternal Son stepped into human history. The One who was with the Father appeared to us.

Notice the phrase: **“the Word of life.”** (v.1)

Jesus is not only a teacher of life;

👉 He is life.

👉 He is the source of eternal life. Outside of Him there is spiritual death. In Him there is forgiveness, joy, cleansing, fellowship, and everlasting hope.

For the new believer, this means your faith is rooted in truth.

- You are not trusting in a religious system.
- You are trusting in the living Christ.

For the mature believer, this is a reminder that our faith never moves beyond Jesus. We do not graduate from Christ.

💡 We grow deeper into Him.

2. The Gospel Is Proclaimed So We May Have Fellowship:

📖 ✝️ (NIV) ***1 John 1:3³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.***

🤔 Why does John proclaim Christ?

! So that others may have **fellowship**.

😬 That word fellowship is rich.

🔍 👁️ It means sharing in common, partnership, communion, close relationship.

😬 Christianity is not merely about information.

🔒 🔑 It is about reconciliation and relationship with God.

- Sin broke fellowship.
- Jesus restores it.

! The gospel is not just that you can escape hell, though thank God that is true.

The gospel is that **through Christ** you can be brought near to God.

- You can know Him.
- You can walk with Him.
- You can call Him Father.

🤔 And notice something else: true fellowship with believers flows out of true fellowship with God. The closer we walk with Jesus, the more real our love for one another becomes.



! This is important in a time when people say, **“I love Jesus, but I do not need the church.”**

John does not separate fellowship with God from fellowship with God’s people. We are brought into a family.

👉 A lonely world desperately needs this truth.

Many are surrounded by people yet have no real fellowship. But **in Christ** there is a shared life. We belong to Him, and we belong to one another.

3. God Wants His People to Live in Full Joy:

  (NIV) ***1 John 1:4 “We write this to make our joy complete.”***

John says these things are written so that joy may be full.

- Real Christianity is not empty religion.
- It is not dry ceremony.
- It is not outward performance.

👉 There is joy in knowing Christ.

Now this is not shallow happiness that depends on circumstances. This is deeper than that.

Biblical joy remains even when life is hard, because it is **rooted in the unchanging character of God and the finished work of Christ.**

🤔 The world tries to find joy in things like money, success, relationships, pleasure, and recognition. But all of those things can change quickly.



! They are not strong enough to carry the weight of our souls.

The joy Jesus gives is different. His joy is not based on perfect circumstances.



👉 It is based on knowing that we are forgiven, adopted into God's family, loved by the Father, and held securely in His hands.

So John is teaching us that when a person truly knows Christ, walks in His truth, and lives in fellowship with God, joy will begin to grow.

- Not fake joy.
- Not forced joy.
- Not pretending everything is easy.

  But a deep, steady joy that comes from knowing your sins are forgiven, your relationship with God is real, and your eternity is secure in Christ.

4. God Is Light, and There Is No Darkness in Him:

  (NIV) **1 John 1:5 “This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.”**

This is one of the great statements in Scripture: **...God is light...** (v.5)

- Light speaks of holiness, purity, truth, revelation, and glory.
- Darkness speaks of sin, deception, evil, hiding, and death.

John does not say God merely has light. He says **...God is light...** (v.5).

👉 It is His nature.

There is no darkness in Him at all.

- None.
- Not a trace.
- Not a shadow.

! God is perfectly holy.

This truth corrects the casual way many people think about sin.

🤔 We often compare ourselves to others and say, “**At least I’m not as bad as they are.**”

But God does not measure holiness by human standards.

🔒 🔑 God Himself is the standard.

John says, **...God is light...** (v.5)



💡 That means He is completely holy, completely pure, and completely true. There is no darkness in Him at all.

👉 So when we come to God, we do not come on our own terms.

We do not get to rename sin, excuse sin, or lower God's standard of holiness.

- We come honestly before Him.
- We step into His light, allow His truth to expose what is wrong, and receive the cleansing that only **Christ** can give.

5. You Cannot Walk in Darkness and Claim Fellowship with God:

  (NIV) ***1 John 1:6 "If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth."***

John now gets very direct....

It is possible for a person to say they have fellowship with God while living in a way that goes against that claim.

! That is a serious warning.

To **“...walk in darkness...”** (v.6)

means to continue living in sin, rebellion, dishonesty, or compromise while acting as if everything is right with God.

👉 John says that kind of claim is not true.

😬 This does not mean a Christian will never stumble or struggle.

👉 Every believer still battles sin.

🔓🔑 But a true believer cannot become comfortable living in darkness.

His life has a new direction.

- He may fall, but he will not want to stay there.
- He may struggle, but he will not make peace with sin.

! This is a message we need today.

- Many people want forgiveness without repentance,
 - Jesus as Savior without surrendering to Him as Lord,
 - and grace without a changed life.
- 👉 But John makes it clear: real fellowship with God changes how we live.

💡 Truth is not only something we say with our mouths.

🔒🔑 Truth is something that shows up in our lives.

6. Walking in the Light Brings Fellowship and Cleansing:


📖 ✝️ (NIV) **1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”**


Here is the good news. John does not say, “If we are perfect.” He says, **...if we walk in the light...**^(v.7)

Walking in the light means we live honestly before God.

- We stop hiding our sin,
- making excuses,
- or pretending everything is fine.

It means we allow God’s Word to speak truth into our lives, even when it exposes things that need to change.

 We come to Him openly, just as we are, and we let His light shine into every area of our hearts.

 Walking in the light is a life of honesty, surrender, and continual dependence on the cleansing grace of Jesus.

 And what happens when we walk in the light?

- First, walking in the light brings true fellowship with other believers. When we are honest before God, we can also be honest with one another. The masks begin to come off. Pride starts to lose its grip. Grace becomes more precious because we all realize how much we need Jesus.

Second, John gives us this beautiful promise: **...the blood of Jesus purifies us from all sin...**^(v.7)

- Not just some sin.
- Not just small sins.
- Not just the sins we think are easier to forgive.

 All sin.

The cleansing power of Jesus is greater than the guilt, shame, and failure we bring into the light.



The blood of Jesus is enough.

- Maybe someone listening carries guilt from years ago.
- Maybe there is shame, failure, secret sin, regret, addiction, bitterness, or moral collapse.


👉 Hear this clearly: the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin.


That cleansing is not earned. It is received by grace through faith.

7. Denying Sin Is Self-Deception:

  (NIV) **1 John 1:8 “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.”**


John addresses another false claim. Some say, **“I have no sin.”** John says that is self-deception.

 The problem with man is not merely environment, education, or bad habits.

 The problem is sin. Our hearts are fallen.

! We are sinners by nature and by choice.

The person who says, **“I do not need forgiveness,”** is blind to his condition.



 This is why the gospel calls us to be honest before God.

- A person will not look for a Savior until they realize they are lost.
- A person will not ask for forgiveness until they understand they are guilty.
- And a person will not receive God’s cure until they stop denying the sickness of sin.

The good news begins when we admit the truth:

- we are sinners,
- we need mercy,
- and only Jesus can save us.

8. Confession Opens the Door to Cleansing and Restoration:

  (NIV) **1 John 1:9** **"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."**

! This is one of the most beloved promises in all the Bible.

- To confess means to agree with God about our sin.
- It means we stop excusing it,
- softening it,
- renaming it,
- or blaming others for it.

💡 We bring it into the light.

🤔 And when we do, what does God do?

- He forgives.
- He cleanses.

🔍 👁️ Notice, John does not say God might forgive us if He feels like it. He says God is **...faithful and just to forgive...**^(v.9)

👉 That means God keeps His promise. When we confess our sins, He does not turn away the repentant heart. He forgives because He is faithful.

But John also says God is just to forgive.

🤔 Why?

🔓 🔑 Because Jesus already paid the penalty for our sin at the cross.



! God is not pretending sin does not matter. He is not sweeping it under the rug. He dealt with sin fully through the death of His Son.

👉 At the cross, God's justice was satisfied, and now His mercy is offered to everyone who comes to Christ.

💡 For the believer, this verse is not permission to keep sinning. It is an invitation to stay close to God by confessing sin and walking in the light.

👉 And for the unbeliever, this verse is a doorway to salvation: come honestly, come humbly, confess your sin, and receive the mercy and cleansing that only Jesus can give.

9. To Call God a Liar Is the Height of Blindness:

  (NIV) **1 John 1:10 "If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us."**

John finishes the chapter with the strongest statement yet.

🤔 To deny our personal sin is more than just having a wrong view of ourselves.

🔒🔑 It is to disagree with what God has already said.

👉 God's Word clearly declares that all have sinned.

! Scripture exposes the truth about the human heart:

👉 we are **not** basically good people who only need a little improvement.

👉 We are sinners who need forgiveness, cleansing, and a Savior.

🤔 So when a person says, "**I am not a sinner,**" they are **not** simply disagreeing with a preacher, a church, or a sermon.

! They are arguing against God Himself.

💡 And that is the heartbreaking danger of unbelief:

- a person rejects what God says about sin,
- and because of that, they also reject the only answer God has provided.

👉 When someone refuses to admit they are a sinner, they do not see their need for a Savior. They deny the problem, so they turn away from the solution.

🔒 🔑 But Jesus came to heal, cleanse, forgive, and save all who will come to Him in truth.

Invitation to Be Born Again:

- Maybe you have been around church.
- Maybe you know Christian language.

- Maybe you have even claimed to know God.

But deep down, you know there is darkness in your life.

- You know there is sin unconfessed.
- You know you have never truly surrendered to Jesus Christ.



👉 Hear the good news:

the One John touched, heard, and saw is the same Jesus who still saves today.

- He died on the cross for your sins.
- He rose again in victory.
- And He offers forgiveness, cleansing, eternal life, and real fellowship with God.

You do **not** need to clean yourself up first. You need to come into the light.

👉 You need to come to Christ.

  Jesus said you must be born again. That new birth happens when you turn from sin and place your trust in Him.



If that is you today, call on Him from your heart:..... Right where you are....



Let us Pray....

“Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner..... I confess my sins to You..... I believe You died for me and rose again..... Please forgive me,.... cleanse me,.... and make me new..... I turn from my sin and place my trust in You alone..... Be my Savior and my Lord..... Fill me with Your Spirit and help me walk in Your light..... In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

If you have prayed that sincerely, Christ will save you. Stand on His promise, not your feelings. Begin walking with Him in His

Word, in prayer, and in fellowship with other believers.

  (NIV) ***Romans 10:9 ⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.***

  (NIV) ***John 3:16 ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.***

Welcome to God’s Family....

Closing Prayer:

Father God, thank You for the truth of 1 John chapter 1. Thank You that Jesus is the eternal Word of life. Thank You that through Him we can have fellowship with You. Thank You that You are light, and that in Christ there is cleansing for all who come honestly before You. Teach us to walk in the light. Deliver us from hiding, pretending, and excusing sin. Make us tenderhearted, truthful, and joyful in Christ. Strengthen every believer today, and for those who are coming to Jesus for the first time, establish them in grace and truth. We love You, and we thank You for Your mercy. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Matthew 28:19-20