

**CHILDREN OF LIGHT
BE FOLLOWERS OF GOD – PART 3 OF 3
EPHESIANS 5:8**

WALK IN THE LIGHT

1. Jesus bids Christians to walk in the **Light** (Eph. 5:7-14).
2. Jesus' description of walking in the **Light** is recorded in the gospels.

¹² Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

John 8:12

⁴⁶ I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.

John 12:46

*¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;
¹⁵ nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.*

Matthew 5:14-15

3. As a Christian, you have been called from **darkness** into **light** (2 Cor. 4:3-6; 1 Pet. 2:9-10).

KEY THOUGHT: "God is Light, and in Him is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5); you are a child of **Light** as a Christian!

I. CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT ARE REGENERATED (2 COR. 5:17).

A. **Radical** Transformation (2 Cor. 5:17)

1. Christians are "new creatures" **born** out of **nothing** (2 Cor. 5:17).
2. This new life in Christ is not an **improvement**, or an adaptation, but a new **creation** out of all new material of a completely different nature.

B. Darkness and light **cannot mix** (Eph. 2:19).

KEY THOUGHT: Christians are the light and no longer darkness; even if you are just a **babe** in Christ you are transformed (2 Cor. 5:17).

II. CHILDREN OF LIGHT HAVE A NEW NATURE (2 COR. 5:17).

- A. God is Light (1 John 1:5-7).
1. Those who are transformed by salvation are decidedly different (1 John 1:5).
 2. A Christian walks in holiness and truth, mimicking the very character of God (1 John 1:6-7; Eph. 5:1).
- B. Sin is darkness (Eph. 2:1-2, 4).
1. Darkness is not just being in the dark, but dead without a spark of life (Eph. 2:1, 2).
 2. The Light of God invades the darkness to create a new nature in the unredeemed (Eph. 2:4; John 3:16).

KEY THOUGHT: Salvation is the sovereign work of God because men prefer the darkness of sin (John 3:19).

III. CHILDREN OF LIGHT ARE RADICALLY CHANGED (ACTS 9:3-6, 17-18).

- A. God's influence alone has brought the Light to change the heart (2 Cor. 4:3-4).
- B. Jesus is the divine Light that leads a new believer from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of light (2 Cor. 4:5-6).

KEY THOUGHT: There is a radical difference between the life of a Christian and a non-Christian (Eph. 5:8-9).

KEY THOUGHT: As children of Light, Christians should be a beacon of righteousness leading people to redemption in Christ (Matt. 5:14-16).

FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH

January 29, 2012

SUNDAY: *Christians have been called from the darkness into the Light* (1 Pet. 2:9-10)!

Christians are to walk in the light. Jesus bids each Christian to walk in the light (Eph. 5:7-14). Jesus' description of walking in the light is recorded throughout the Gospels (Matt. 5:14-15; John 8:12; 12:46). As a Christian, you have been called from darkness to light (1 Pet. 2:9-10). Christians are called by God and are saved from His wrath. Christians have been called from the darkness of sin and destruction into the marvelous light. "God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5). Christian, you are a child of the Light! Praise the Lord for your salvation. Reflect and meditate on your atonement by Jesus on the cross. Request the help of the Holy Spirit to walk boldly in the Light of your salvation. Stay in the center of the path. ***May the imagery of the Light of salvation help you remember your purpose every moment of every day – live in the Light!***

MONDAY: *Christians are radically new creatures* (2 Cor. 5:17)!

The Children of the Light are regenerated. There is a radical transformation of their lives from darkness to light (2 Cor. 5:17). Literally, Christians are a new life born out of nothing (2 Cor. 5:17). New life in Christ is not an improvement, or an adaptation, but a new creation formed out of new material of a completely different nature. The key picture is that, before your salvation, you "were" in darkness and now, as a redeemed believer, you "are" in the kingdom of Light. Old ways of thinking, old priorities, and previous plans are in the "rearview mirror" with a completely regenerated perspective that perceives sin and life in an entirely new light. Christians are radically new creatures! Thank the Lord for His benevolent grace and mercy to bring you into His kingdom of Light. Review your actions, conversations, and thoughts of the past 24 hours to be sure you have not violated your new nature with sin. Approach the Lord with a repentant and broken heart as you ask for forgiveness. ***May the Holy Spirit which has sealed your salvation bring you comfort and instruction as you seek to walk in the Light!***

TUESDAY: *Light is unique* (Eph. 2:19)!

Darkness and light cannot mix. The children of Light are part of God's household and are bestowed the same infinite love that the Father shows on His Son (Eph. 2:19). Every believer throughout time is part of this household of faith. There are no strangers or foreigners. Everyone is an esteemed member of the family with no second class citizens. The Light of Jesus Christ has uniquely transformed every believer into a member of God's eternal household. Meditating on the heritage that you possess as a child of God will give birth to a desire to serve Him and His kingdom in a selfless and sacrificial manner. Recognize that you are a unique member of the kingdom of God. Your mix of gifts and talents are designed to play an important role in your church's participation in building the kingdom of God. Decide to fulfill the role that you have been assigned. Ask for the strength and conviction to step into the role reserved for you. Thank the Lord again for His call to join Him in the kingdom of Light. ***May the reality of this invisible kingdom help you live out the radical transformation of your salvation!***

WEDNESDAY: *Children of Light have a new nature* (1 John 1:5-7)!

The children of Light are fashioned into transformed beings with a completely new nature (2 Cor. 5:17). First, God is Light and in Him there is no darkness (1 John 1:5). Those that have entered the kingdom of

Light are transformed by salvation and are decidedly different creatures. God is perfect, and there is no sin or darkness in Him. Likewise, His children are not to play or live in the darkness. Morally and spiritually, they are enlightened and are to be a shining light to others. A Christian is to walk in holiness and truth, mimicking the very character of God (1 John 1:6-7; Eph. 5:1). Walking in darkness is foreign to a Christian. A genuine Christian walks habitually in the Light (2 Cor. 6:14). Do you get closer to the darkness than you should? Are there areas of your life in which your flesh craves the darkness? Repent of those things today. Turn your back on those sinful issues, and walk confidently with the Lord. ***Choose to walk in the middle of the path in the bright light!***

THURSDAY: ***Christians have been rescued from darkness (Eph. 2:4)!*** Sin is darkness. Every Christian was a rebellious lover of the darkness before his redemption. The unredeemed are dead in their trespasses and sin (Eph. 2:1-2). Christians have been rescued from the darkness by the light of the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:4)! God poured out His boundless love, mercy, and grace to redeem sinful men through the sacrifice of His Son on the cross for damning sin. Even when each unbeliever was dead in his sins, God chose to raise him to a new life in Christ (Eph. 2:5). Christian, you have been rescued. In many cultures when someone saves your life, you are indentured to them for years, or even for life. Do you feel a debt you cannot pay to God for redeeming you from an eternity of suffering? Do you owe God your allegiance and service today? How could you not pour yourself into His work to help others He will choose to redeem? Pray for the wisdom to be indebted to God for your salvation and the sense to serve Him as much as you possibly can. ***Gain strength and joy from your reflection on the wonderful salvation you have been granted through the love of God!***

FRIDAY: ***The children of Light are radically changed (Acts 9:17-18)!*** The Apostle Paul was miraculously called and saved on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:3-18). Do you consider your salvation experience to be miraculous? You should, because everyone comes to faith in Christ after the Holy Spirit has invaded their sinful life and drawn them to the Lord Jesus. Every salvation is a miracle! God's influence alone has brought the light to change the heart of the sinner (2 Cor. 4:3-4). Jesus is the divine light that leads a new believer from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light (2 Cor. 4:5-6). Reflect once again on our questions from yesterday. Do you feel a debt you cannot pay to God for redeeming you from an eternity of suffering? Do you owe God your allegiance and service today? How could you not pour yourself into His work to help others He will choose to redeem? Pray for the wisdom to avoid Satan's distractions from pursuing what is true and best – building the kingdom of God. ***Praise God for His marvelous light!***

SATURDAY: ***The children of Light should be a beacon of righteousness (Matt. 5:14-16)!*** There is a radical difference between the life of a Christian and a non-Christian (Eph. 5:8-9). Once upon a time, every life was in spiritual darkness, but now as a believer, you are living in the kingdom of light! It is not enough to just *live* in the kingdom of light. The children of light should be beacons of righteousness that God can use to lead people to redemption in Christ Jesus (Matt. 5:14-16). Praise God for the Light! Beyond your praise, make the decision to be a worker in the fields that are ripe unto harvest (Matt. 9:35-38). ***May this be the most exciting year of your life!***