

The Man who Ignores Light

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I John 1:3-7.

B. Life without fellowship with God is like being shut away from the light.

II. The secret of the dynamic Christian life is fellowship with the Father and Jesus Christ.

A. Relationship is becoming a member of the family of God by faith in Jesus Christ. Fellowship is the experience of Christ.

1. One can have relationship without fellowship, but one cannot have fellowship without relationship.
2. Relationship is you possessing God.
3. Fellowship is God possessing you.

III. Three ways Christians miss this fellowship.

A. If we say we have fellowship with Him while walking in darkness, we lie.

1. The problem is that a Christian does not live according to the truth even though he claims to.
2. This is the opposite of walking in the light. Walking in darkness means to be living as a practical atheist.
3. One can miss the benefits of God's presence in one's life by ignoring the light.
4. Ways people do this:
 - a. They stop coming to church.
 - b. They stop examining themselves, and they blame others.
 - c. They never admit they are wrong.
 - 1) This halts Christian growth because a person never comes across as needing anything.
 - 2) Ananias and Sapphira were judged for pretending to be what they were not.
 - 3) This pretence makes it impossible to help younger Christians.

5. The answer is to walk in the light.

- a. This does not mean to be perfect.
- b. This means to be open about faults and ask for prayer from others.
- c. The result of this is immediate fellowship with Christ.
- d. We also have fellowship with other people losing a critical perfectionist spirit.
- e. Jesus' blood cleanses us from all sin. This is not out of place because the inevitable accompaniment of evading light is guilt.
- f. To walk in the light means to hide nothing.
- g. Walking in the light is a measuring stick by which we can measure all things, and it is energizing.

Application questions:

1. Explain the difference between relationship and fellowship with God. How is this distinction helpful?

2. Which way of walking in darkness stands out to you? Why?

3. Describe what it means to walk in the light. Is this attainable?
