

Living in Light as Children of Light - Part 2

Daily and Intentional Renewal: Putting Off Darkness, Putting on Christ and the Amor of Light

1. Brief recap from last meeting; we discussed...

- We talked about Christ being Supreme, the True Bread that came down from Heaven and the True Light that came into the world He created and how this true light is now living in believers because we are now the temple of God. **1 Cor. 3:16, 6:19, 2 Cor. 6:16.**
- Because of this true light, believers are no longer living or walking in darkness, no longer in spiritual darkness, no longer held by its power because we have been transferred from darkness into the Kingdom of His Son. **Eph. 5:8-9, Jn. 8:12, 12:46, Col. 1:11-14, 1 Thes. 5:4.**
- Satan's kingdom is one of darkness—an absence of light, warmth, and joy; while the kingdom of Christ (the Kingdom of His Son) is one of love, which implies **the presence of all three (light, warmth, and joy).**
- We also went into detail on how His light is received at salvation. Because He came into the world His true light is now available for all to receive through and by faith.
We also talked about living and walking in this true light.

2. How do we "daily" live and walk in the light and how do we share this light?

- a) We ended with Living in the light - **Eph. 5:1-14 (NLT), 1 Jn. 1:5-7 (AMPC).** I want to continue from **Eph. 5:1-14** onto **Eph. 5:15-20** which focuses on living by the Spirit's power. Let's read through **Eph. 5:1-20 (NLT)** for better context. This passage tells us how we should and can "daily" walk in the light.
- b) Within a **Eph. 5:18** commentary about being filled with the holy spirit there is this Writing from an unknown author: *"Just as you have left the whole burden of your sin, and have rested on the finished work of Christ, so leave the whole burden of your life and service, and rest upon the present inworking of the Holy Spirit. Give yourself up, morning by morning, to be led by the Holy Spirit and go forth praising and at rest, leaving Him to manage you and your day. Cultivate the habit all through the day, of joyfully depending upon and obeying Him, expecting Him to guide, to enlighten, to reprove, to teach, to use, and to do in and with you what He wills. Count upon His working as a fact, altogether apart from sight or feeling. Only let us believe in and obey the Holy Spirit as the Ruler of our lives and cease from the burden of trying to manage ourselves; then shall the fruit of the Spirit appear in us as He wills to the glory of God."*
- c) I want to focus on "intentionality" and "daily". We can see both of these at work in **Luke 9:23-27 (AMP)** *"If anyone wishes to follow Me [as My disciple], he must deny himself [set aside selfish interests] and take up his cross daily [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] ...".* Let's read the entire passage and discuss.
To daily take up the cross means to deliberately (and intentionally) choose the kind of life He lived.
- d) There are many other things the word tells us we believers should be doing. Here are some examples. Note: these passages do not refer to "daily" or "intentionally", but they are

assumed to be not a one-time event when you take them in full context. This also lines up with the “process of sanctification” we talked about in meeting 19.

3. What the Bible says we are to put off and put on, and I would add daily and intentionally.

- a) **Rom. 13:11-14 (AMP)** - "Awaken from your sleep [of spiritual complacency] - fling away the works of darkness and put on the [full] armor of light. **Vs. 14** "Clothe yourselves with Jesus Christ". (read full passage)
NLT – remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes and put on the shining armor of right living.
NKJV - cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.
- b) **Rom. 13:11-14 (MSG)** – I love how the message translates this passage. I also like its use of the word dissipation: “to be extravagant or dissolute in the pursuit of pleasure”.
Dissolute: lacking restraint. So “dissolute in the pursuit of pleasure”, = “Lacking resistance in the pursuit of pleasure.” This reminds me of **Jas. 4:7** “Resist the devil and he will flee”, but reading this in full context is much more useful and impactful.
- c) Let's read **Jas. 4:7-10 (AMP)** for better context. Notice before the phrase “*Resist the devil and he will flee*”, we have “*submit to the authority of God*”. The “submitting” helps with the “resisting”. Without submitting to God, you will be “*lacking the power to resist*” which will then lead into what it says in vs. 9. “*Be miserable and grieve and weep [over your sin]. Let your [foolish] laughter be turned to mourning and your [reckless] joy to gloom.*” And then we see in vs. 10 that we are to “*humble ourselves in the presence of the Lord and He will lift you up and give you purpose!*” Putting this together: Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, submit to His authority and then you will be able to resist the enemy and successfully put on the armor of light daily and intentionally.
- d) Bringing this back to **Rom. 13:11-12**: Wake up! Resist spiritual complacency, humble yourselves in the present of the Lord, submit to His authority, fling away the works of darkness and clothe yourselves daily and intentionally with the full armor of light! This will help you resist the devil and as a result daily walk in the light!
- e) But wait, there is more on **Rom. 13:12**. Let's read this excerpt from “Rom. 13:12 - MacLaren's Expositions commentary - The Soldier's Morning Call”:
“Now, the first thing that strikes me is that the garb for the man expectant of the day is armor. We might have anticipated something very different in accordance with the thoughts that Paul's imagery here suggests, about the difference between the night, which is so swiftly passing, and is full of enemies and dangers, and the day which is going to dawn, and is full of light and peace and joy. We might have expected that he would have said, 'Let us put on the festival robes.' But no! 'The night is far spent; the day is at hand.' But the dress that befits the expectant of the day is not yet the robe of the feast, but it is 'the armor' which, put into plain words, means just this, that there is fighting, always fighting, to be done. If you are ever to belong to the day, you must equip yourselves now with armor and weapons.”
- f) **1 Thes. 5:8 (AMP)** "put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope and confident assurance of salvation". - **1 Thes. 5:8** - Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers: “in **1 Thes. 5:8**, the metaphor of night and day should suggest that of “armor.” The warfare

in which the Christian is engaged is between the powers of light and of darkness.

(**Eph. 6:12**) And the use of the word "putting off" (stripping oneself of clothing) supplies a link between the two ideas by suggesting the putting on of a different kind of clothing, the Christian panoply (a complete suit of armor)."

- **Eph. 4:21-24 (AMP)** - Put off the old self and put on the New Self (new nature). Vs 22 in the **AMP** is powerful: "*Strip yourselves of your former nature [put off and discard your old unrenewed self] which characterized your previous manner of life and becomes corrupt through lusts and desires that spring from delusion;*"
- **Eph. 6:11-17 (AMP)** - Put on the Full armor. – We all know this, but let's read this carefully through in the **AMP**.
- **Job 29:14 (NKJV)** - Put on righteousness. In this passage Job was being self-righteous. Job later in vs. 42:1-6 repents in dust and ashes. Now on this side of the cross in the new covenant, we (believers) put on Christ's righteousness as we started with in **Rom. 13:14** "*Cloth yourselves with Jesus Christ, putting on His righteousness.*" **Phil. 3:8-9 (AMP)** ties into this very well. "...but [possessing] that [genuine righteousness] which comes through faith in Christ."
- **Col. 3:12 (AMP)** - Put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and [unselfish] love.

g) The Holy Spirit is what enables us to share Christ's light, the true light (who is in us believers) into a dark world. The Holy Spirit is what enables us to be "*partakers of His divine nature*" as mentioned in **2 Pet. 1:3-4**. Let's read this in the **ESV**. Notice the following: "*His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness*", "*He has granted to us his precious and very great promises*" and "*through them (these promises) you may become partakers of the divine nature*".

- **Believers have this promise:** Jesus promised the Holy Spirit as a permanent **guide, teacher, seal of salvation, and comforter (John 14:16-18)**. He also promised that the Holy Spirit's power would help His followers to spread the message of the gospel around the world. (Acts 1:8) i.e. be a light in a dark world. His power leads us, convicts us, teaches us, and equips us to do His work, spread the gospel, to walk and live in the light as children of light and to share His light with others as we share in His divine nature.
- Let's be a light to a dark world by daily and intentionally living and walking in the light. We do this by daily and intentionally putting off and putting on what we discussed above.

Homework:

Read Rom. 13:8-14 (NLT/NKJV/AMPC)

I highly recommend these commentaries.

MacLaren's Expositions – Romans 13:8-14

LOVE AND THE DAY / ONE METAPHOR AND TWO MEANINGS / THE SOLDIER'S MORNING-CALL

<https://biblehub.com/commentaries/macaren/romans/13.htm>

What does it mean to put on Christ in Romans 13:14?

(In a very real sense, the Christian life is a “put on.”)

<https://www.gotquestions.org/put-on-Christ.html>

Read all of Eph. 5:1-20 (NLT/NKJV/AMPC) – Instructions for how we can “daily” walk in the light.