

Walking in the Truth

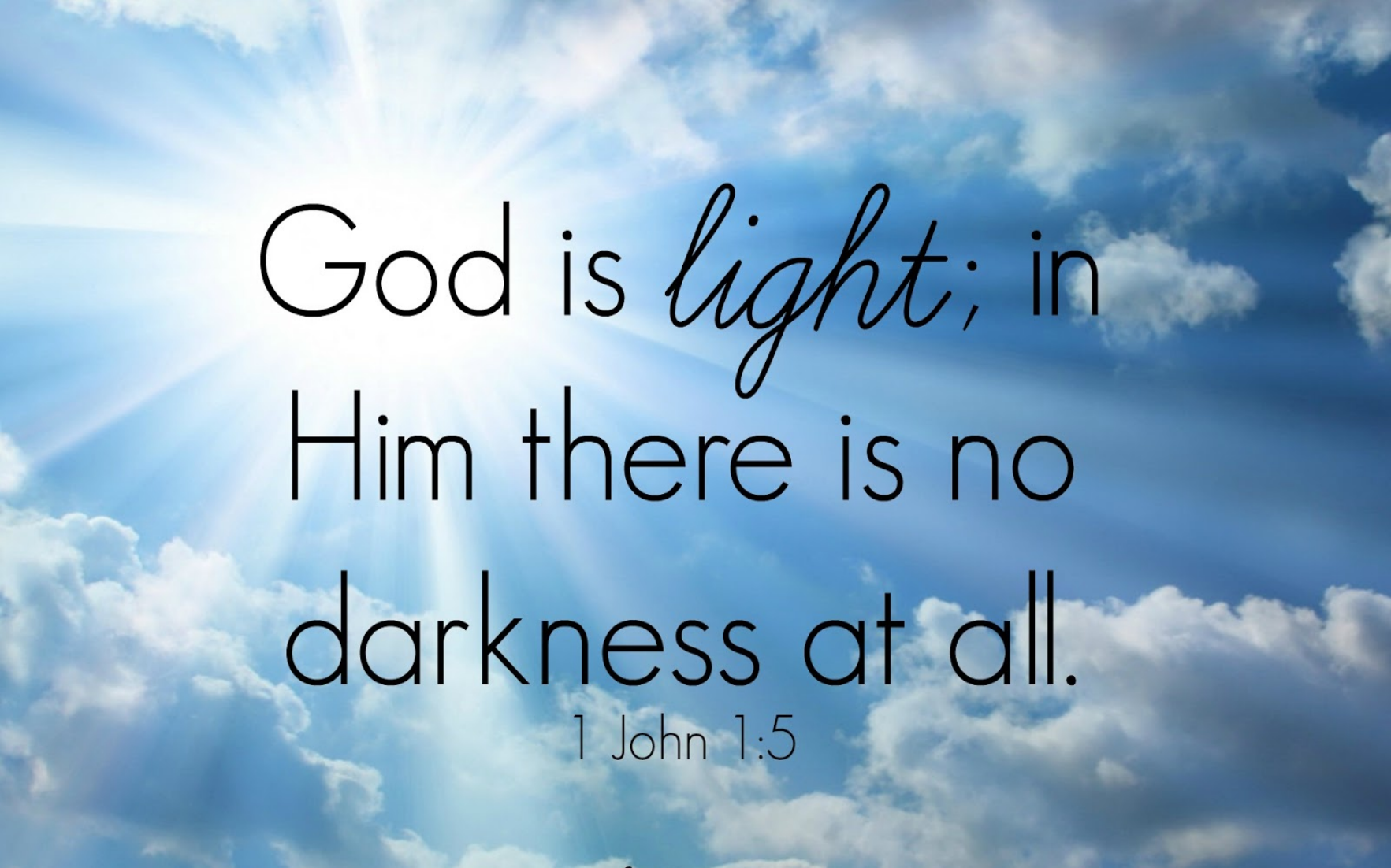
Studies in John's Letters

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“This is the message we have heard from him...”



God is *light*; in
Him there is no
darkness at all.

1 John 1:5

“God is Light”

Light ...

- The first fundamental property of the universe created by God; “Let there be light...” (Gen 1:3)
- Is the source of life;
- Sustains life;
- Enables vision and reveals what is hidden;
- Cannot coexist in same space with darkness;
- Is the opposite of darkness.

“*God is Light*”

Light used as a metaphor—

- For God’s omniscience, he sees all things (Philo)
- For the destiny of the righteous (Dead Sea Scrolls)
- “In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind” (John 1:4)
- “I am the light of the world. Whoever *follows* me will never *walk* in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
(John 8:12)
- Light as revelation and true knowledge of God;
darkness as ignorance of God.
- to define a spiritual dualism which structures John’s teaching.

LIGHT

God

light

truth

of God the Father

Christ

righteousness

children of God

eternal life

love one another

remaining

DARKNESS

World

darkness

lies/deception

of the world

antiChrist

sin

children of the devil

death

hating the brother

going ahead/beyond

Walk in the light



Walking is directional movement that takes intention and effort.

Walking as a metaphor

In the OT,


- God *walking* with Adam and Eve in Eden (Gen 3:8), implies fellowship with God
- Both Noah and Enoch were said to have *walked* with God (Gen 5:22, 24; 6:9).
- God commanded Abraham to *walk* blamelessly before him (Gen 17:1).
- Psalm 1:1 blesses “the one who does not *walk* in the counsel of the wicked...” (italics added).
- “Walking” is a metaphor for how one conducts oneself in life.

Walking as a metaphor

In the NT,

- Jesus, “follow me!” (Matt 4:19; 9:9; Mark 1:17; 2:14; Luke 5:27; John 1:43; 21:19, 22).
- Extends to all who would be his disciples (Matt 8:22; 10:38; 16:24; 19:21; Mark 8:34; 10:21; Luke 9:23, 59; 14:27; 18:22; John 10:27; 12:26)

Walking in the light...

A photograph showing a person's feet in athletic shoes walking on a path during a golden sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, orange glow. The path is made of gravel or dirt. The person's legs are visible, wearing dark pants and white socks. The shoes are white with black accents. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

i.e., Living by the truth of God's
revelation in Jesus Christ,
walking in the truth—
about Jesus
about sin
about love.

Opening Our Eyes to the Light

“However, late, then, it may seem, let us rouse ourselves from lethargy. That is what scripture urges on us when it says: the time has come for us to rouse ourselves from sleep. **Let us open our eyes to the light** that can change us into the likeness of God. Let our ears be alert to the stirring call of his voice crying to us every day: today, if you should hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”

St Benedict's Rule, *Prologue*



Thomas Barwick via Getty Images

Our Questions for Self-reflection

- Do I believe rightly about Jesus Christ?
- Am I dealing rightly with sin?
- Do I love others rightly?

1 John

— faith
— light
— walk = live
= definition
→ result, consequence
— love
— remain

The Word of Life

1 That which was from the beginning,^a which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes,^b which we have looked at and our hands have touched^c—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. **2** The life appeared;^d we have seen it and testify to it,^e and we proclaim to you the eternal life,^f which was with the Father and has appeared to us. **3** We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard,^g so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.^h **4** We write thisⁱ to make our joy complete.^j

Walking in the Light

⁵This is the message we have heard^k from him and declare to you: God is light;^l in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness,^m we lie and do not live by the truth.ⁿ ⁷But if we walk in the light,^o as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, punifies us from all^b sin.^p

⁸If we claim to be without sin,^q we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.^r ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins^s and purify us from all unrighteousness.^t ¹⁰If we claim we have not sinned,^u we make him out to be a liar^v and his word has no place in our

1:1 ^aS Jn 1:2
1:14 ^bS Lk 24:48;
Jn 1:14; 19:35;
Ac 4:20;
2Pe 1:16;
1Jn 4:14
1Jn 20:27
1:2 ^dJn 1:1-4;
11:25; 14:6;
1Ti 3:16;
1Pe 1:20; 1Jn 3:5;
8 ^eS Jn 15:27
1:3 ^gS ver 1
1Co 1:9
1:4 ⁱJn 2:1
1:5 ^kJn 3:11
1Ti 6:16
1:6 ^mJn 3:19-21;
8:12; 2Co 6:14;
Eph 5:8; 1Jn 2:11
1Jn 3:19-21;
1Jn 2:4; 4:20
1:7 ^oIsa 2:5
Heb 9:14;
Rev 1:5; 7:14
1:8 ^pPr 20:9;
Jer 2:35;
Ro 3:9-19; Jas 3:2
1Jn 8:44; 1Jn 2:4
1:9 ^sPs 32:5;
51:2; Pr 28:13
1:10 ^uver 7;
Mic 7:18-20;
Heb 10:22
1:10 ^vver 8
1Jn 5:10
1Jn 5:38;
1Jn 2:14
2:1 ^xver 12,13;
28; 1Jn 3:7,18;
4:4; 5:21;
S 1Th 2:11
1:3 ^yS Ro 8:34;
1Ti 2:5
2:2 ^zRo 3:25;
1Jn 4:10
2:3 ^{aa}S Mt 1:21;
S Jn 3:17
2:3 ^{bb}ver 5;
1Jn 3:24; 4:13;
5:2 ^{cc}S ver 4
4:5 ^{dd}Jn 14:15
2:4 ^{ee}ver 3;
Tit 1:16; 1Jn 3:6;
4:7,8
1Jn 1:6,8

liar, and the truth is not in him.^f ⁵But if anyone obeys his word,^g God's love^d is truly made complete in him.^h This is how we knowⁱ we are in him: ⁶Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.^j

⁷Dear friends,^k I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning.^l This old command is the message you have heard. ⁸Yet I am writing you a new command;^m its truth is seen in him and you, because the darkness is passingⁿ and the true light^o is already shining.^p

⁹Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother^q is still in the darkness.^r ¹⁰Whoever loves his brother lives in the light,^s and there is nothing in him^t to make him stumble.^t ¹¹But whoever hates his brother^u is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness;^v he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.^w

¹²I write to you, dear children,^x because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.^y

¹³I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning.^z

I write to you, young men, because you have overcome^a the evil one.^b

I write to you, dear children,^c because you have known the

walk = live

sub-metaphor

walk = live

walk →

light = sight

1 John 1:5–10

5a assertion

And **this is the message**
that we have heard from him and
announce to you:

b content

**God is light, and
there is no darkness in him at all.**

c content

6a condition

If we say,

b content

"We have fellowship with him," and
walk in the darkness,

c condition

d result

**we lie
and we do not do the truth.**

e result

7a contrast

But if we walk in the light
as he himself is in the light,
**we have fellowship with one another
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.**

b result

c result

8a contrast & condition

If we say,

b content

"We have no sin," then

c result

**we deceive ourselves
and the truth is not in us.**

d result

9a condition

If we confess our sins,
**he is faithful and righteous,
to forgive our sins and
to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

b assertion

c result

d result

10a condition

If we say,

b content

"We have not sinned,"

Christ, Sin, Love

1:5–2:2	Christ and our sin
2:3–9	Christ and love for others
2:18–27	Christ and antichrist
3:1–3	love
3:4–10	sin
3:11–24	love
4:1–6	Christ came in the flesh
4:7–21	love
5:1–12	Christ came by “water and blood”
5:15–21	sin

1 John 1:1–4: Who Gets to Speak for God?

“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.”

1 John 1:1

John Establishes His Apostolic Authority

“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.” 1 John 1:1

Central Idea: The gospel of Jesus Christ is anchored in historical reality.

Central Idea: “We” who were with Jesus have been commissioned to be his interpreters.

Two Kinds of Seeing...

theáomai

3. to perceive something above and beyond what is merely seen
with the eye, *see, behold, perceive*

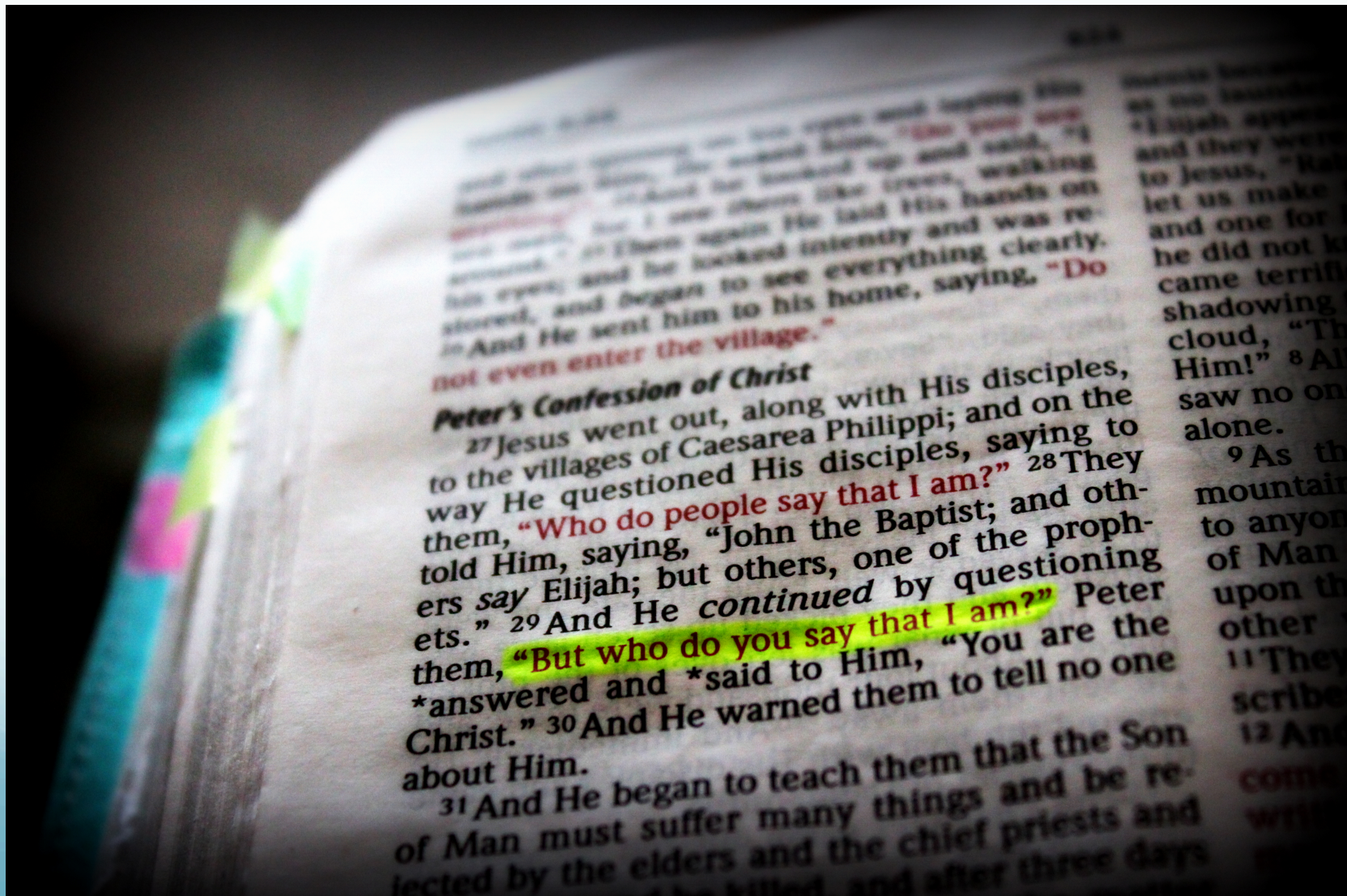
b. of perception that is wholly non-sensory= *see, perceive, understand*

John claims an authority to correctly interpret the significance of Jesus.

Jesus of Nazareth died on a cross in Jerusalem.

Jesus *Christ* died on a cross in Jerusalem *for our sins*.

Walking in the Truth About Who Jesus Is



Walking in the Truth About Jesus

1 John 2:18–23

“Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the **antichrist**—denying the Father and the Son.”

Walking in the Truth About Jesus

- The “antichrists” went out from “us” (2:19)
- Word appears only in 1 John

Table: NA28 Greek NT		
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	Total Hits	Hits per 1000 words
Matthew – 2Peter	0	0.00
1John	4	1.87
2John	1	4.03
3John – Revelation	0	0.00

Who is the liar? It is whoever **denies that Jesus is the Christ**.
Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son.
1 John 2:22

Walking in the Truth About Jesus

Antichrists tell lies about Jesus:

- denying that the man Jesus is the Christ
(2:22; 5:1)
- denying that Jesus is the Son of God
(2:23; 3:23; 5:11-12)
- denying that Christ has come in the flesh
(4:2–3; 2 John 7)
- denying that Jesus Christ came both by
“water and blood” (5:6)

Walking in the Truth About Jesus

1 John 5:5–12, “...not by water only...

Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. This is the one **who came by water and blood**—Jesus Christ. He did **not come by water only**, but **by water and blood**.

“water and blood” = Jesus’ baptism (HS falls upon him) and his death (HS released upon disciples)

A “Water only” Gospel

A water only gospel is one that so emphasizes the Spirit to the denial of the cross as redemptive. Such a view denies Christ and inevitably impacts one's attitude toward sin.

- Eg., he went to the cross as an example for us to follow when suffering.
- E.g., Or that his death isn't the important thing, it's his teachings, i.e., Jesus was a great prophet or moral teacher.

Do I believe rightly about Jesus Christ?
Do I speak rightly about Jesus Christ?

