

## BFF390 Walking in the Light

**Scott Moore:** Welcome to the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

**Steve:** I'm better. How're you doing?

**Scott:** Good enough. I've avoided the colds so far.

**Steve:** Amen. Praise the Lord. Hide in your house.

**Scott:** Yeah.

**Steve:** Today we're going to continue our series on "By Every Word." This series are accounts of what I've learned in reading the Bible. Today, I'm going to focus on a concept called walking in the light.

Father, help us as we contemplate Your Word today. I know that they have lots of information we could glean, and yet You encourage us not just to hear with our ears but to hear with our hearts. Give us hearts, soft hearts, to hear Your Word and understand what You're saying to us today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Scott:** Amen.

**Steve:** I do not understand everything I read in the Bible. If I did, I would be God, which I am not. I am a lifelong learner or disciple. I focus on what I do know and trust God to reveal to me what I don't know, when He thinks I'm ready. This is a relationship, and God is my teacher. His Spirit is teaching me here a little there a little. He's a really good teacher. He knows what I need to learn and when I need to learn it.

A couple passages though that reinforce this idea of walking in the light. When I say walking in the light, it's as if God shines His flashlight on a certain part of scripture. When I see that, I walk in it and put it into practice right away. As I step out in obedience God then shines His flashlight a little bit further on. When I see His beam illuminating more truth then I apply what I am learning.

This is the metaphor for walking in the light that I think of. 1 John 1:7, "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 cleanses us from all sin." There is a lot packed into this one verse.

As God reveals truth, it's my responsibility to obey it and apply it. A similar phrase is found in Psalm 119:105, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." I want to walk in the light of His word and as His word reveals things for me to do, I want to apply them following His light.

It's important for all of us to not worry about what everybody else's paths or where everybody else is having truth revealed to them. We need to walk in the light that God gives us and stay in that path.

I need to have a quick review from last week in Matthew 7:24–27, part of the Sermon on the Mount. Who was the wise man and who was the foolish man?

**Scott:** The wise man was the one who did what the word said.

**Steve:** Absolutely. Go to the head of the class, you get an A. Matthew 7:24, "Everyone then who hears these words of Mine and does them." I don't know why I missed this so many times in reading it.

Hearing the word, reading the word, and doing the word, will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. This can be theoretical. Let me make it practical by giving two examples that have happened just in the last couple of years.

As I was out walking and seeking God 2018, the Holy Spirit told me that we needed to develop our relationship. We needed to give time to the Spirit, from John 4:23-24, "The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

I began taking walks to see God. I was following through with the direction of the Spirit. He led me to do it and I was doing it. I was walking in the light and obeying Him. One morning I walked out and I sensed the Spirit wanted me to take a different approach. He said, "Start with a hymn." I sang a hymn right away.

After I was done singing, I inquired, "Now what do I do?" He said, "Give thanks." I said, "OK," and I gave thanks for about five minutes. I said, "Now what do I do?" He said, "Praise His name." I praised His name and found I was enjoying this new approach with singing, thanks, and praise.

As soon as I applied these three precepts, I understood they all came from Psalm 100, which I'm going to read. "Make a joyful noise to Jehovah all the earth, serve Jehovah with gladness. Come into His presence with singing." I had sung a hymn.

"Know that Jehovah, He is God. It is He who made us, and we are His. We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving." I'd just done that, "And His courts with praise." I'd just done that. "Give thanks to Him, bless His name or praise His name."

The final part is, "Jehovah is good. His steadfast love endures forever and His faithfulness to all generations." I applied these principles right away. This was very different than if I had said, "Oh, this is interesting. I'm supposed to begin by singing, and then walked home and written up a study on singing." Instead I sang.]

There is a big difference from thinking about doing something and simply doing it. As I obeyed God, and walked in the light that He was giving me, I knew I was applying principles found in Psalm 100.

I've studied Psalm 100 many times now, and have begun to appreciate that this is not just a pleasant praise Psalm, this is a portal into His presence. As we sing, give thanks, and bless His name, we do come before God in an intimate way.

Not only are there clear directions of how to approach God, there is also wonderful details about God Himself. Psalm 100 reveals God as the one Who created and made us. He's also our shepherd. He's good. His faithfulness and steadfast love are to all generations.

This Psalm has become very dear to me, but I don't think I would have comprehended the depth and potential of Psalm 100, if I hadn't walked in the light of it. John 7:17, reveals and insight into knowledge which is related to obedience, "If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I'm speaking on my own authority."

Contextually, Jesus is talking to people who had a lot of religion, but they didn't have a relationship with God. I'll just leave it there. Note this sequence, obey and then you will know. I have grown up in a culture where it's important to know stuff. It's important to take notes. It's important to get good grades. It's important to learn from books. This has been the focus. However what God is making me know is it's not just we need to know but also how we need to apply.

This is what makes us wise men. This is what helps us to understand whether God's speaking or whether Jesus is just making stuff up. He basically told them. Do and you will know.

I'll give you another example of this. On one of my walks, I was coming around the corner and I sensed the Spirit encouraging me and teaching me I need to be not only coming into His presence with singing, giving thanks, praising His name, I need to bind the strong man as part of my routine. I've been binding the devil ever since.

As I walked in obedience I began to understand I wasn't sitting in the back row as a Christian doing what I could before He came and hoping that I was going to make it through the tribulation. Instead I sensed that I had become a priest because this is what priests do.

Priests worship by coming into His presence with singing. Priests worship by giving thanks. Priests are called to bless God's name and minister to Him. Priests are also called to pray. This is part of our function as believers. We do not sit in the back row, twiddling our thumbs and hoping Jesus comes and gets us out of a big mess.

As disciples and priests, we have work to do in singing, giving thanks, worshiping, and praising His name. When I read 1 Peter 2:5, "You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" I recognized I been functioning as a protest as I was applying and obeying what God had led me to do.

We just finished a whole series on what it means to be a priest and conduct spiritual warfare, as well as what it means to bind the strong man. This has been a journey. These insights have been given over a period of years and now condensed into about 12 minutes. As I apply what God gives me to do—becoming a doer of the word and not a hearer only, then I am made from the same cloth as the wise man.

Wise men aren't the smartest people, but they are the people that when they learn something and they apply it. They hear something and they do it. Any response to that part?

**Scott:** You're a wise man. I'm not sure I have much wisdom. I'm working on it. [laughs]

**Steve:** Well, this is what God means when He says to us, "Walk in the light." That's what He's encouraging us to do. He says, "I am Your good shepherd and I am Your teacher and I am going to develop a relationship with you, and I'm going to give you something to do, and then you apply it and then I'll give you something else to do and you can apply that."

He's a really good teacher and He knows what we need to learn and when need to learn it. This is the essence of walking with God and walking in the light of His word. His burden is light and His yoke is easy.

**Scott:** Yeah.

**Steve:** I've gotten in trouble in the past when I tried to walk in someone else's life and couldn't do it. Now I'm listening to God for myself and it makes a big difference. I can be encouraged by other people's testimony, but I need to do the things that God gives me to do because He knows what I can do and what I can't do, He knows my frame.

**Scott:** Sometimes we miss the relationship because we want to figure out the formula. If He gave us the formula, and a lot of us were the kind of people that would be like, "Oh, sweet, see you," and take off running down. If He gave us the whole path at once, we'd just take off running.

**Steve:** Yes we're sheep. Do you know the difference between a sheep and a goat? Goats have to be driven, sheep can be led. We're sheep and we're following our shepherd. Our shepherd knows where the green pastures are, our shepherd knows where the still waters are.

Our shepherd knows where we're going to spend the night. Instead of trying to figure it all out as you say and understand the formula, we just need to keep our eyes on the shepherd and listen to Him. We know His voice.

That's good. Which gives me to this next section, which you have mentioned several times, but I'm going to say it now. I just read this in Matthew 7:24-27, "Everyone then who hears these words of Mine."

My testimony is most of my life I have read the Bible in a book made up of paper with ink. Now for many years, I read my Bible on my computer or my phone, and I listen to a lot of the Bible on my smartphone because I have hearing aids with Bluetooth hearing aids. These are wonderful. I can turn on my Bible when I'm in the car and it goes right into my ears.

Listening to the Bible is just as effective as reading it. Revelation 1:3, "Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and who keep what is written in it for the time is near."

Walking in the light is all through scripture. We need to read it, hear it, and then do it. We have to keep what is written. I find that after reading my Bible many times, I knew where verses were on the page. I had the same things highlighted for 20 years. Now when I listen to it, I find that I get new insights that I didn't receive when I was reading it.

The Bible was not meant to be read a chapter or a few verses at a time. It was meant to be read as a whole letter. The letters of Paul, John and Peter were meant to be read in one sitting. Generally when I'm listening to whole books at a time is because I'm behind in my Bible reading schedule. This helps me to catch up.

**Steve:** Today I'll be reading the whole book of 1 John. To wrap up this podcast, obedience is a common theme in Scripture. Sadly for many years, I haven't heard people talk much about this subject. Grace is more popular. We like asking God to forgive us and give us a new heart where God does all the work.

Obedience places the responsibility on us. It's walking in the light. Applying what we've learning. Putting it into practice. As we walk and as we hearken, as we listen and we apply and we obey what God gives us to do, may we always remember that His yoke is easy and His burden is light.

Let's pray.

Father, thank you for your word. Thank you that it's alive and living. It's just not a textbook. It's a lot of information, but it's part of your journey with me, and it's part of your journey with Scott. Each person that's listening, you are giving them light. You're giving them instruction.

As soon as they apply that, as soon as we apply what you've given to us to do, you give us more instruction. Help us to be obedient, help us to be not only hearers but doers, help us to be people who see the light and then walk in the light. Thank you for giving us light, Holy Spirit.

Thank you for teaching us step by step, precept by precept, hear a little, there a little. You're a really good teacher, and you know each one of us and you know right where each one of us is in our journey. Bless you today, in Jesus' name, Amen.

**Scott:** Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme.

If you have a question for the show, email Steve at [spdemme@gmail.com](mailto:spdemme@gmail.com). If you have a question for me, you can reach me at [scott@unsocializedmedia.com](mailto:scott@unsocializedmedia.com). Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.

If you would like to try a schedule for reading the Bible, there are several [here](#).