

John 1:1-4, 14; 8:12; 14:23-24;
How Can I Walk in the Light and Power of God's Presence?

Many people today within the body of Christ walk in a state of uncertainty, powerlessness and sometimes a seemingly almost defeated. What is so desperately needed is the power, victory and hope from as we walk in the Light of God's Word.

As we walk in the Light of God's Revelation through His Word, we can live in His power and victory. This gives the believer a great confidence in Him who saved us. We can find a peace within ourselves that cannot be found anywhere on earth. This gift from our Heavenly Father can release us from any bondage, fear or aimlessness if we simply walk in His light.

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Within the Holy Scriptures we see where God revealed Himself, His presence and His power in light.

Genesis 1 – creation

Exodus 13:21 – pillar of fire by night guided Israel thru night

Matt. 17:2 Jesus' transfiguration his face became as bright light

Matt. 5:13-14 You are the salt & light

Acts 9 – Saul's conversion

Acts 13 – Peter arrested and an Angel of the Lord appeared in bright light and freed Peter

Matt. 24 – When the great tribulation comes absence of light

Light represents the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ in our lives. When Moses encounter Yhwh for the first time Jehovah God appeared in a burning bush.

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In John's Gospel, we are given great truths about walking in the light that provides a person with the peace of God to walk through the darkness of this world. (Open with John 1:1-4, 14)

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So how can you and I encounter this peace, this power and this victory through the Light of Jesus?

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I. We can find peace, power and victory of life by following the Light (John 8:12)

Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." **New Slide**

The word "Light" is from the Greek – photos (fotos) which is where we get the word photography. Photography is the collection of light on to a source In the original Greek and to the hearers of Jesus' words it meant "the truth". Today we see many people with various degrees of "truths" but Jesus remains the One Eternal Truth sent from God. Light is a Person from God - Jesus. **New Slide**

The context of the setting. We need to remember Jesus used parables (true stories) to teach his audience

- a. John 6:35 When asked about bread – "I Am the bread of life"
- b. John 10:7 "I am the door"
- c. John 7:15ff Alludes to Himself at the "Living Water"
- d. John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd"
- e. John 11:25 "I am the resurrection"
- f. John 15:1 "I am the vine" **New Slide**

Jesus was preaching in the synagogue. The Jewish historian Josephus tells us this was the outside of the fore court of the temple, part of the court of the women. In this location stood two colossal golden lamp-stands, on which hung a multitude of lamps, which were lighted after the evening sacrifice (probably every evening during the feast of tabernacles) diffusing their brilliancy throughout the city. **New Slide**

Jesus revealed (1:1-4; 14; 8:12) that He is the Light . In 1 John 1:5 we see that God is Light (1 John 1:5).

Absence of Light is known as darkness and this speaks of death, ignorance, sin and an eternity without God, if the person rejects Christ. (Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19; 5:8; Matt. 25:30) Light speaks of life, knowledge, holiness and hope.

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The Light of Christ provides the only illumination on God's purposes, God's will and the person of God through God's Word.

Without the Light, a person cannot see the truth of their life and the path of their life – much less possess the power, hope and victory of God. Without Light Jesus' church is only an address rather than the House of God. It will lack power and life. It will lack the Spirit-filled direction and ministry. **New Slide** In our day we need the revelation of God's light upon the why, the how and the who we're to minister and outreach.

The only hope for us to walk in the victory & power of Almighty God is to walk in the Light. **New Slide**

II. We can find the peace, power and victory of life by loving and obeying Jesus (John 14 :23a)

Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. **New Slide** " Obedience is an unpopular word in 21st Century America and many people put a lot of emphasis on following rules. Our emphasis, as followers of Jesus should be upon love which produces obedience rather than rules. Don't mistake me – rules are important but false religions and some churches emphasize rule keeping over a personal encounter and walk with Christ. Kyle Idleman, author of "Not a Fan, Gods at War, End of Me, and AHA: The Moment God Changes Everything" said this in his book "Not a Fan," "We have done a great job teaching people to follow the church, but a lousy job teaching people to follow Jesus." **New Slide**

Discipleship teaches people to follow the Light (Jesus) (Quote Matt. 28:18-20)

All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matt. 28:18-20) **New Slide**

The emphasis of the Great Commission is on the making disciples. Discipleship is so important and essential if one is to walk in the Light of Christ. Discipleship accomplishes the teaching of God's Word, how to respond to God's Word, and teaching ministry skills as Jesus taught the disciples. The disciples sat on a hillside listening to Jesus teaching and then they had the practical in-the-field experience. That's precisely what Jesus meant for us to do in the Great Commission. **New Slide**

Everything in our life should be based upon one eternal reality –Our love for God. How? Jesus was asked, " which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' " "This is the great and foremost commandment. (Mt 22:36–38)

Love is the fuel that propels one's obedience!

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III. We can in the peace, power and victory of life by allowing Jesus to live in your life (John 14 :23b-24)

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. (14:23-24) **New Slide**

In verse 24 Jesus equated obedience to Him with our love for Him. He also gave another sobering truth: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. (Matthew 7:21) **New Slide**

Verse 23b is a passage full of hope, full of victory, full of God's power. When we love the Lord above everything and everyone else: The God of Creation, the King of Kings will love you and promises to "make His home in our lives ." **New Slide**

What more complete victory can an individual have? What better companion to walk through life's trials & tribulations than Jesus ?

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My favorite promise is in vs,23. Jesus said, "My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." How much more personal and intimate could the God of all Eternity be than to make His home in the hearts of those who love Him. The Angel of the Lord revealed in the coming of the Messiah to Joseph (Matt. 1:23)

"BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL
BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME
IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

There's no more powerful description of God than the name Immanuel (God with us)

Through my life I have discovered this truth through my own walk with Almighty God through His Son, Jesus. As long as I walk in His light, He shows me many things and has done mighty things in my life.

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Conclusion

Do you face obstacles in your life that leave you uncertain as to their outcome?

Are you walking in the victory and power of Jesus' light?

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Let me suggest three ways you can from this passage:

1. follow Him & allow Him to guide your path through whatever you face.
2. Love Him with all your heart, your soul and all of your mind and through this love obey what He shows you (this is faith)
3. Finally, Allow God the Father and Jesus His Son to live in and through you where-ever you go and whatever you do.

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Invitation

This is your invitation to respond to God's Word. What decision do you need to make today?