

John 8:12-30...¹² Then Jesus spoke to them again: *"I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows Me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life."*¹³ So the Pharisees said to Him, "You are testifying about Yourself. Your testimony is not valid."¹⁴ *"Even if I testify about Myself,"* Jesus replied, *"My testimony is valid, because I know where I came from and where I'm going. But you don't know where I come from or where I'm going."*¹⁵ You judge by human standards. I judge no one.¹⁶ And if I do judge, My judgment is true, because I am not alone, but I and the Father who sent Me judge together.¹⁷ Even in your law it is written that the witness of two men is valid.¹⁸ *I am the One who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me."*¹⁹ Then they asked Him, "Where is Your Father?" *"You know neither Me nor My Father,"* Jesus answered. *"If you knew Me, you would also know My Father."*²⁰ He spoke these words by the treasury, while teaching in the temple complex. But no one seized Him, because His hour had not come.²¹ Then He said to them again, *"I'm going away; you will look for Me, and you will die in your sin. Where I'm going, you cannot come."*²² So the Jews said again, "He won't kill Himself, will He, since He says, 'Where I'm going, you cannot come'?"²³ *"You are from below,"* He told them, *"I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world."*²⁴ Therefore I told you that you will die in your sins. For if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."²⁵ "Who are You?" they questioned. *"Precisely what I've been telling you from the very beginning,"* Jesus told them.²⁶ *"I have many things to say and to judge about you, but the One who sent Me is true, and what I have heard from Him—these things I tell the world."*²⁷ They did not know He was speaking to them about the Father.²⁸ So Jesus said to them, *"When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing on My own. But just as the Father taught Me, I say these things."*²⁹ The One who sent Me is with Me. He has not left Me alone, because I always do what pleases Him."³⁰ As He was saying these things, many believed in Him.³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, *"If you continue in My word, you really are My disciples."*³² *You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

Walk in the Light....Continue in the Word....Know the Truth....Live in Freedom

1. Walk in the Light

Adrian Rogers in his book *"Standing for Light and Truth"*, tells this story... "I heard of an English professor who walked into his classroom one day and wrote these words on the blackboard 'Walk with light.' He then asked the students who wrote these words. Some said Goethe, others Emerson, and still others guessed the poet Wordsworth. **But the professor said,** 'No, I read these words on the traffic light on my way to class this morning.'" (p. 15)

"The first words of God recorded in the Bible are: Genesis 1:3...*"Let there be light."* King David sings (around 1000 B.C.): **Psalm 27:1**...*"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?"* Psalm 119:105... *"Thy Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"*.

Later we find in **1 John 1:5**... *"God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all"*. Darkness universally symbolizes sin and death; light corresponds to life and holiness and purity.

1. God and Light

- He is light (Ps 27:1, Is 60:19-20, Mic 7:8, 1 Jn 1:5, Rev 21:23, 22:5).
- He dwells in unapproachable light (1 Tim 6:16, Job 38:19).
- He cloaks himself in light (Ps 104:2).
- His presence is light (Ps 36:9, Ps 90:8).
- His face shines light (Ps 4:6, 44:3, 89:15, 118:27).
- He is the Creator of light (Gen 1:3, Is 45:7, 2 Cor 4:6).
- He is the Provider of light (Ps 18:28, 36:9, 43:3).

2. Jesus and Light

- He is the promised light (Is 9:2, Matt 4:16, Lk 2:32).
- He is the Light of the World (Jn 1:5, 9, 3:19 8:12, 9:5, 1 Jn 2:8, Rev 21:23).
- His presence radiates light (Matt 17:1-9, Acts 9:3, 22:6).
- He gives light and life to men (Lk 1:79, Jn 1:4).

3. The People of God and Light

- Israel was called to be a light to the nations (Is 42:6, 49:6, 60:3).
- The church is the light of the world (Matt 5:14-16, Eph 5:8, Phil 2:15).
- We are sons of light (Matt 16:8, Eph 5:8, 1 Thess 5:5).
- We are the saints in light (Col 1:12).
- We are called into his marvelous light (1 Pet 2:9).
- We bear the fruit of light (Eph 5:9).
- We wear the armor of light (Rom 13:12).
- We carry the message of light (Acts 26:23, 2 Cor 4:4-6).

4. The Ways of God and Light

- Light provides guidance (Ps 119:105, Prov 4:18).
- Light exposes evil and sin (Ps 90:8, Eph 5:13-14).
- Light dispels darkness (Gen 1:3, Ps 18:28).
- Light communicates safety (Ps 56:13, 1 Jn 1:7).
- Light brings comfort (Ps 78:14, 139:12).
- Light invites enjoyment (Eccl 11:7).
- Light communicates things about God (James 1:17).
- Light is used to describe salvation (2 Cor 4:4-6, Eph 5:13-14, 1 Jn 1:7).
- Light is used as a garment (Rom 13:12, 2 Cor 11:14).

Above points reprinted from: <https://korycapps.wordpress.com/2013/10/27/the-biblical-theme-of-light/>

1. Walk in the Light

The events related to Jesus' claim to be the light of the world are also connected to the Feast of Tabernacles. The Talmud (Jewish commentary on the Bible) tells of the celebration surrounding the lighting of four enormous candelabras: "The young priests filled the lamps of the large chandeliers with oil, and lighted them all, even that the place was so bright that its reflection lighted the streets of the city. Hymns and praises were chanted by the pious ones, and the Levites praised the Lord with harps, cornets, trumpets, flutes, and other instruments of harmony. They stood upon fifteen broad steps, reaching from the lower floor to the gallery, the court of the women. And they sang fifteen psalms as they ascended, and the large choir joined voices with them...."

These huge oil lamps reminded the Jews of the pillar of fire that guided Israel in their wilderness journey. Thus Jesus has presented himself as the reality to which the three most significant "wilderness images" point. In John 6, Jesus feeds thousands from a few loaves of bread to show that he is the true manna, the bread of life from heaven. In John 7, Jesus speaks during the water ceremony because he is the rock which followed Israel and gave water in the desert. And now he stands beside the massive temple lamps and claims to be the pillar of cloud and fire which guided and guarded Israel to the promised land: "I am the Light of the world."

<https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/light-for-a-dark-world-glenn-durham-sermon-on-lordship-of-christ-119144?ref=SermonSerps>

“The context of the events in this paragraph continues to be the temple during the Feast of Tabernacles (v. 20, cf. 7:14). Jesus was speaking to the Jews who had assembled there, some of whom were residents of Jerusalem, and others, pilgrims from other parts of Palestine and the world. This teaching may have taken place on the day after the feast, which was also a day of great celebration. Jesus here (John 8:12) made the second of His "I am" claims (the 1st was in John 6:35.. “I Am the Bread of Life”). This time He professed to be the "Light of the World" (cf. 1:4). Incidentally, John used the word "world" some 77 times in his Gospel, in contrast to the other three evangelists who used it a total of only 15 times, indicating John's global perspective and interest. The "water of life" and the "bread of life" metaphors represent what satisfies and sustains life. The "Light of life" metaphor stands for what dispels the darkness of ignorance and death. Jesus was claiming that whoever believes in ("follows") Him will enjoy "the light" that comes from God's presence and produces life”.

(Constable. <https://planobiblechapel.org/tcon/notes/pdf/john.pdf>)

“Part of the Feast of Tabernacles was the lamp-lighting ceremony. Every evening during the festival, a priest would light the three huge torches on the menorah (lampstand) in the women's court (or treasury) of the temple. These lights would illuminate the entire temple compound throughout the night. People would bring smaller torches into the temple precincts, light them, and sing and dance sometimes all through the night. It was one of the happiest occasions of the entire Jewish year. "Now the brilliant candelabra were lit only at the beginning of the Feast of Tabernacles; there is dispute as to the number of nights on which the illumination took place, but none as to the fact that at the close of the feast it did not. In the absence of the lights Jesus' claim to the Light would stand out the more impressively." (Morris, p. 388. <https://planobiblechapel.org/tcon/notes/pdf/john.pdf>)

TO FOLLOW: <190> avkolouqe,w akolouthéo **Meaning:** to follow

Origin: from ke,leuqoj keleuthos (a road, way) **Usage:** follow(35), followed(36), following(17), follows(1)

5 Meanings: (Barclay. Gospel of John. P. 12)

1. A Soldier who follows his captain into battle
2. A Slave accompanying his master
3. A Counselor who gives wise advice that is followed
4. A Citizen who obeys the laws of the nation
5. A Teacher's lesson that is put into practice

1 John 2:9-11...⁹ *The one who says he is in the light but hates his brother is in the darkness until now.*

¹⁰ *The one who loves his brother remains in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.* ¹¹ *But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and doesn't know where he's going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*

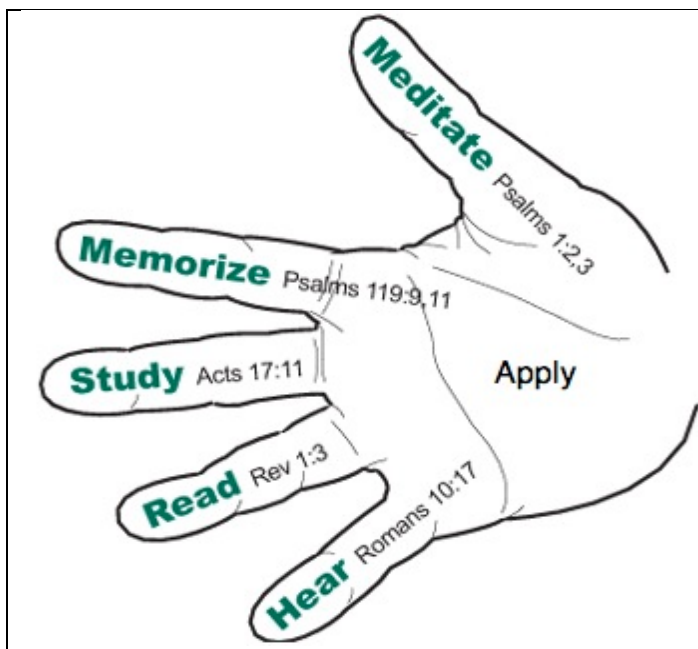
1 John 1:7... *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

2. Continue in the Word

John 8:31... *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, you really are My disciples.*

<3306> me,nw meno... *To continue, stay, abide, remain, endure.*

An Authentic & Genuine Disciple is someone who not only hears the words of their Teacher, but also lives them out and applies them to their lives consistently



HEAR = Rom10:17... So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

READ = Rev. 1:3... Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

STUDY = Acts 17:11... Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, studying the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

MEMORIZE = Ps. 119:11... Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

MEDITATE = Ps. 1:2... But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

APPLY = James 1:22... But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Luke 6:40... *"A disciple is not greater than his teacher, but everyone when fully trained will be like His teacher."*

Luke 9:23... *"Then Jesus said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.'"*

3. Know the Truth

John 8:32... *You will know the Truth,*

John 14:6,7...⁶ Jesus told him, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*⁷ *"If you know Me, you will also know My Father. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him."*

John 18:37, 38...³⁷ *"You are a king then?" Pilate asked. "You say that I'm a king," Jesus replied. "I was born for this, and I have come into the world for this: to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice."*³⁸ *"What is truth?" said Pilate.*

3 John 1:3,4...³ *For I was very glad when some brothers came and testified to your faithfulness to the truth—how you are walking in the truth.*⁴ *I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are walking in the truth.*

4. Live in Freedom

John 8:32... *You will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free."*

John 8:36... *"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."*

- Without Christ, we are slaves to sin, unable to do what is right.
- Christ's death on the Cross set us free from the penalty and power of sin.
- Freedom is not the right to do what we want, but the ability to do what we ought.

An Authentic, Genuine Follower of Christ will...

Walk in the Light,

Continue in His Word,

Know the Truth (Jesus) &

Live in Freedom (It will set us free).