
Church in Campbell Weekly News

October 12, 2025 Issue 25-41

Light and darkness

In verse 9 John continues, "He who says he is in the light and is hating his brother, is in the darkness until now." Light is the expression of God's essence and the source of truth. The divine love is related to the divine light. The divine love is versus the satanic hatred, which is related to the satanic darkness. Hating a brother in the Lord is a sign of being in darkness (v. 11). Likewise, loving a brother is a sign of abiding in the light (v. 10).

In chapter 1 of this Epistle John speaks about light and darkness with respect to the first condition of the divine fellowship. When in chapter two he speaks regarding the second condition, he also mentions light and darkness. Hatred is a sign that we are in darkness, whereas love is a sign that we are in the light.

In verse 10 John goes on to say, "He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause of stumbling in him." Abiding in the light depends upon abiding in the Lord (v. 6), from which issues love toward the brothers. Stumbling comes from blindness, and blindness comes from darkness.

Both conditions of the divine fellowship depend on the divine light. If we are not in the divine light, we are automatically through with the fellowship of the divine life. Whenever we are without light, we are automatically in darkness. Whenever light vanishes, darkness is present. Likewise, as long as we abide in the divine light, darkness vanishes.

The absence of the divine light is a strong sign that we are not in the divine fellowship. In chapter one, concerning the first condition of the divine fellowship, whether we are in light or darkness is determined by whether or not we deal with sin. If we sin, we are in darkness. But if we deal with sin by confessing it and experiencing God's forgiveness and cleansing, we shall be in the light. In chapter two, concerning the second condition of the divine fellowship, whether we are in darkness or light is determined by whether or not we love the brothers. If we hate, we are in darkness. But if we love, we are in the light. When we are in the light, we are then in the divine fellowship. But when we are in darkness, we have nothing to do with this fellowship.

In verse 11 John says, "But he who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes." In John 12:35 and 40, darkness is the issue of blinding; here it is the cause of blinding. Darkness brings in blindness, and blindness is the cause of stumbling. How is it possible for a Christian to be

stumbled? A Christian may be stumbled by the blindness that comes from darkness. Darkness is the result of an interruption in our fellowship. Whenever our fellowship in the divine life is broken, immediately we are in darkness. This darkness causes blindness. Then it is easy for us to stumble.

Maintaining the divine fellowship by fulfilling the two conditions

In 1:5—2:11 we have the conditions of the divine fellowship. The first condition is the confessing of our sins, and the second condition is loving God and the brothers. In order to confess our sins, we need to realize that we still have sin dwelling in our flesh and that it is always possible for us to sin. Whenever we sin, we need to confess our sin. Our confession is based on God's provisions: the blood of Jesus, the faithfulness and righteousness of our faithful and righteous God, the Advocate, and Christ as our propitiation. Through these provisions we may enjoy the restoration of our fellowship. This restoration of fellowship is wholly based on propitiation. Actually, propitiation is itself the restored fellowship. With propitiation as the basis, we may converse with God, and He with us. We then have two-way traffic for a mutual enjoyment between us and God. This is the first condition for maintaining the divine fellowship.

We have emphasized the fact that the second condition is loving God and the brothers. In order to fulfill this condition, we need to know God continuously and experientially. It is not sufficient to know God once in a while, and we do not know Him once for all. We need to know Him experientially by continuously living in the divine life. Our daily life should be a life of knowing God constantly, for our life should be a life of living God. As long as we live God, we shall constantly know Him.

I can testify from experience that whenever I speak, I have the opportunity to know God. In giving a message my desire is to speak in God and with God. Sometimes, however, a certain word may be about to come out of my mouth. Then I realize that I need to swallow it, for the very God in whom and with whom I speak regulates what I say. I do not want to speak in myself but in God. I cannot tell you how much I have come to know God in the matter of my speaking. Whenever I speak, I know God. Speaking is always a golden opportunity for me to experience Him.

If we would experience and enjoy the divine love and have it become the love by which we love God and others, we need to know God experientially. This is the basic requirement for having the love of God become our love.

If we continually know God in an experiential way, we shall automatically keep the commandments of the Lord. When we know God, we keep the Lord's commandment. To keep the Lord's commandment means that we take His word. We have pointed out that the Lord's word is not merely a command or injunction; it is also a supply of life to us. The Lord's word always supplies life in our spirit. This can be proved by our experience. Whenever we receive the Lord's word and put it into practice, immediately we have the life supply within us.

The Lord's word is different from the Mosaic law. The Mosaic law is an injunction with demands and requirements, but without any supply. However, whatever the Lord commands us in the New Testament is a supplying word. His life supply backs up His commandment. His commandment is not merely an injunction requiring us to do something; it is also a word that always supplies whatever it demands. The Lord's word even supplies us with the Lord Himself as life and as the Spirit. Therefore, we may experience Him and enjoy Him. If we know Him, we shall keep His word. By keeping His word we enjoy His supply.

When we keep the Lord's word and receive His supply, the love of God will be perfected within us. This means that as we receive the supply of the Lord's word, the love of God becomes our enjoyment, and this enjoyment issues in a love for God and the brothers.

If we would fulfill the second condition of the divine fellowship — the requirement that we love God and the brothers — we must know God. If we know Him, we shall keep His word. If we keep His word, we shall receive His supply of life. Then the love of God will be perfected in us. Our experience and enjoyment of God's love will issue in a love for God and the brothers. This is the fulfillment of the second requirement for maintaining the divine fellowship.

The two conditions of the divine fellowship involve sin on the negative side and love on the positive side. On the negative side, we need to deal with sin; on the positive side, we need to exercise ourselves to love God and the brothers. Therefore, sin must be dealt with, and love must be perfected. If we deal with sin and exercise ourselves to love God and the brothers, we shall fulfill the conditions of keeping ourselves in the fellowship of the divine life.

(Excerpt from 1 John Life-studies, msg #17)

Burdens for Church Prayer

- Our target for 2025, # of newly baptized 25 and # of attending prayer meeting 35
- The burden of gospel preaching
- Recover the church services, children, YP, usher, etc.
- Saints blending together to build up the Body in love
- Establish a prayer life individually and corporately

- Pursuing truth and growth in life to be in the reality of the kingdom.
- Spreading the kingdom of God by preaching the gospel at WVC campus and community.
- Build up container for receiving our next generation
- Pray for the calling and burdens released during past Nor Cal Labor Day conference. PSRP, BNPB, small group living.

Announcements

- Life-study of 1 John MSG 17,18
- HWMR: 2025 summer training Week 1
- 10/14 (Tue) 7:45pm, Prayer meeting in small groups
- 10/24-26 (Fri-Sun) 2025 Fall YP Conference at FSCC. Registration by 10/12; \$70/person
- 10/31, 6:00pm, love feast, blending meeting in the meeting hall
- 10/31-11/2 (Fri-Sun) 2025 Fall Northern California College Conference at Mission Springs Camps and Conference Center. Registration by 10/5; \$270/person
- 12/22-27 winter training in Anaheim, registration deadline: 11/1, \$205/person (in-person), \$125/person (video)
- Review of Chinese speaking perfecting training messages every Lord's evening 8-9 pm starting from 9/7; zoom ID 852 623 3580 PW 333
- 10/31-12/12 (pause on 11/28) 6th term of the Corporate Pursuit Classes at FSCC
Every Fri 9:30am-12:00pm
\$40/person. Pay to Church in Campbell, Note: FSCC CPC
Registration link:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1na8oTaeY1d3CYBzi8fG0Dhr_ao8mcr68oii9X5l6tCE/viewform?pli=1&pli=1&edit_requested=true
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