

LWMORG

Living In The Light Brings Eternal Security Minister R. Thomas Lambur

John's View On Living In The Light Of The Lord And In The Vital Union

The Apostle John, the beloved, in his first Epistle of 1 John, communicates a message to the Christians *of living in the Lord's light in a vital union*. First, the Apostle sets forth *the foundation* for us that Jesus is the Eternal Life which made Himself visible to them at the first. He explains that Jesus is the very Eternal Life and as He was with them so he wants *to be with us* in that personal intimate fellowship and *vital union* which we are to *enter into* and *remain in*.

Rom. 6:23 ...the gift of God is eternal life (((through))) Jesus Christ our Lord. That gift is the person Jesus who is *Eternal Life* and by the vital union, our connection we receive being "in Him," that is "in *Eternal Life*."

Eph. 2:8 For by grace (merit of His cross) are ye saved through faith (faith meaning: the action of trust continuing in interaction with the Lord); and that not of yourselves: it is the gift (Jesus is the person – righteousness, the gift) of God:

By grace, is *by Jesus*. Faith is a living interaction with the one who provides it. In John 15 the Vine is the source of the branches. So again, the gift of God which is *Eternal Life* is the very person of Jesus Christ to whom *by faith* we become *connected with*, and to whom we are *receiving Eternal Life*. The fact is that the definition of true faith is practically understood as a living active action toward *the object of our faith*, the person of Jesus (Eternal Life), His blood sacrifice for us, and His High Priestly ministry interaction by which His blood continues to keep us connected.

Rom. 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

So here we see that *Jesus who is Eternal Life* and is *our righteousness* is being *revealed through this interaction with the vital union* over and over displayed to us; the righteousness of Jesus being appropriated to us on our behalf (due to our sins) as we who have been *justified* now LIVE OUT an active interactive relationship with the living Lord *through faith*.

Election Made Sure

1Thess. 1:4 Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

2Pet. 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things (being attentive), ye shall never fall:

Here *the Elect* is Jesus Christ and those who are *in active vital union* are those who the New Testament calls *the election* (meaning those who God possesses as His own and those who possess Him as their own). The N.T. revelation of election is first known as a “*calling*” and then after it becomes known as “*the connection*” we are having to “*being in Jesus and Jesus in us.*” Assurance is knowing where we stand with the Lord... it is a recognition and assurance within the conscience of having made our peace with God.

Neglect In Salvation

Heb. 2:3 How shall we escape, *if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him...*

Certainly here there is no message of *condemnation* but *the warning to reverence, love Him and be devote* which are required expressions *which move through our faith* toward the Lord in our salvation experience. Our interaction with Him should not be neglected. The end of this verse points out that *the hearing of Jesus' words* in our soul are *the means of His grace* brought to us which brings our continual spiritual maintenance about.

Turn On The Light!

John goes on to tell us that; “**GOD IS LIGHT**” and there is not even the faintest shadow of darkness within Him. So John says that since the nature of the Lord is pure, holy, and loving, for one to say he is enjoying a current intimacy with the Lord and at the same time to be walking in, living in darkness of sin, impurity, uncleanness of the heart both in thoughts, word, and deeds *not being washed clean and delivered in their heart*, means that this would translate into this person both *telling and living* a LIE.

Jn. 15:22 If I had not *come and spoken unto them*, they had not had sin (their sins revealed): *but now they have no cloke for their sin.*

Jn. 3:20 For every one that doeth evil hateth *the light*, neither cometh to *the light*, *lest his deeds should be reprov'd* (corrected).

Acts 3:26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, *sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.*

The true experience of a *living in a vital union*, says John, is *in the light of the Lord shining into our hearts with His truth*, which causes a person to be *removed* from their sins and sins *removed* from them.

The Work In Us Of This Vital Union

John explains to us this *vital union* when he says; If we really are living in the same LIGHT, (living in the Lord's light), in which he eternally exists, then we have a true living fellowship with each other (Him and us), and the blood of the eternal covenant which he shed for us KEEPS us clean from any and every sin. The eternal light of the Lord which is His truth interacts with our soul and conscience, *giving us opportunity to be cleansed and keep us*. The light of the Lord *shines* and we as Christians have the privilege to walk in the intimate fellowship, in the beam of its light.

1Pet. 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation...

Since faith is the life lived in this *vital union with Jesus*; the light of our Lord enters through our intimacy with Him. The Lord's very *power* to keep us who remain in the light is active against sin.

Cleansed And Kept Upright As One With The Lord

Jn. 17:17 Sanctify (cleanse) them (disciples) through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Ps. 19:13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

Heb 2:11 For both *he* (Jesus) that sanctifieth (cleanses) and *they* who are sanctified (who are being cleansed) are all of *ONE* (by this vital union): for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren...

The light shines into our heart and the cleansing begins. As we give ourselves over to the truth of God in His word, His truth which is coming from God's perspective affirms the changes that we need in our lives. Jesus continues to actively sanctify us as we fellowship with and abide in Him.

Jude 1:1b,2 ...to them that are sanctified (cleansed through the vital union) by God the Father, and preserved (kept through the vital union) in Jesus Christ, and called... Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

Jude interjects in his letter to those who have obeyed the call, who have loved the Lord, that the Lord keeps them in the faith by the Lord Jesus' interactive pure light which He continues *shining* into the hearts of them who are being intimate in fellowship. The light of the Lord is revealing His truth and changing their lives. He desires that they *go on and on* multiplying this experience, ever having *more and more* of the Lord and His Spirit in their fellowship.

Jn. 10:27,28 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

And I give unto them eternal life (I am giving them Eternal Life Himself); and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

Our interaction here of hearing and following is *the action of living faith* which causes Him to continuously give to us *eternal life* though which we are kept by the Lord and preserved unto our destiny.

Honesty And Right Attitudes

John goes on to say back in the first chapter that if we refuse to admit that we are sinners when the light of His truth is shining upon us and exposing our faults for what they are, then we will go on living in a world of illusion and *the very truth* which has come to us *to deliver us* will become *a stranger (alien or foreigner) to us*, for we are not living our lives according to the Lord's truth. On the other hand, when this *truth* comes to us *who recognize it and embrace it* for what it is (*His truth*), and with *this truth* we *admit* that we have sinned, *then* we find the Lord utterly reliable and straightforward through His High Priestly ministry *to activity cleanse* us of all evil in our hearts.

1Jn. 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

It is our attitude of being honest with ourselves before the light of the Lord that takes us forward in our relationship with Him. When a person flatly denies the Lord's diagnosis of his or her spiritual condition, it cuts them off from what He is saying to them. I know people who first started in their relationship with the Lord, listening and obeying Him, but after He attempted to make spiritual progress with them, by cutting off sin in their lives, they ignored Him and His voice stopped, after a time, speaking to them. Some of the people who were asked, what was the last word that the Lord asked them to do in obeying Him, *answered in neglect...* and after obeying Him, they found *His voice return* and their *assurance* continue. Notice here, that it is the word of the Lord which was imparted in their intimate fellowship which needed to be obeyed. If the word of the Lord is not a part of us within we need to examine our current spiritual condition.

Loving the Lord and being in obedience to Him are the ongoing essentials for continuing to live in the light of the Lord of this vital union. How else can the Lord continue with men in delivering them and helping them to avoid future sin? The ministry of our Lord is one who warns us through the Holy Spirit and His word as we are listening to our conscience.

1Jn. 2:1,2 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous (the person Jesus is righteousness): And he is the propitiation (atonement) for our sins: and not

for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world (universal salvation for all available).

John says there isn't any *assurance* or *eternal security* given to a person that does not ABIDE in Him in this vital union.

Jn. 15:6 If a man *abide not in me*, he is *cast forth* (((as a branch))), and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

His High Priestly Ministry

Heb 8:6 But now hath *he obtained a more excellent ministry*, by how much also *he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises*.

Jesus maintains our covenant relationship through His High Priestly ministry. He is righteousness and His blood sacrifice is ever able to continue to be appropriated for our present and future sins as we interact with Him in confession.

1Jn. 1:9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Our confessions are based upon a contrite heart broken over our own sins. We have to face the reality of our sins, understanding our dependence upon His help to deliver us.

Ps 34:18 The LORD is *nigh* unto them that are of *a broken heart*; and saveth such as be of *a contrite spirit*.

Ps 51:17 The sacrifices of God are *a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*

Contrition brings about changes in our heart, repentance, faith, and the receiving of forgiveness.

True Repentance Is A Deep Work In The Heart

True repentance involves the whole life not merely sorrow for the past, but our intentions for the future, the abandonment of selfish ways to God's way in obedience and continual on going fellowship with Him. It means a complete surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ accepting His daily yoke.

The Apostle John in 1 John continues to tell us that the man who claims to intimately know the Lord, claiming He is living in the light of the Lord but does not obey Him, is living in self delusion. So John says it is *only* when we obey the Lord's words that we can be quite sure (receiving spiritual assurance) that we ourselves are in this vital union and are truly experiencing intimately knowing Him.

1Jn. 2:3,4,5 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments (words). He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments (words), is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, (((in him))) verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

So we see that the one in who is continuing in the light of the Lord, obeying the words of the Lord, (((in him))) is the one in who the very work of the Lord is active and perfecting. It next says that we know that we are in this vital union, which we have become assured of, due to our continuous interaction with obeying His words. As a man learns to more and more obey Him, He more truly and fully expresses his love for the Lord. Obedience is the test of whether we really live in the Lord.

The Stamp Of The Lord's Fresh Anointing In Our Heart

John speaks again as He did in the Gospel of John chapter 15 and refers now to us that:

1Jn. 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

It is the vital union that John is speaking of here, the place of intimacy with the Lord which transforms our spiritual lives to walk the Lord actively living His life out through us by the empowerment of His Spirit.

The life of the man who professes to be actively in this vital union is to so be actively living in the Lord, bearing the stamp of the Lord. The stamp of the Lord is the expression of what is seen in our lives of the living Lord in us. After our time of daily intimacy with the Lord we receive a fresh anointing from the Lord. This anointing carries us in that day to live out our lives by His Spirit in His anointed presence. When people notice something different about us than they have known previously they are noticing Jesus indwelling and through us.

John says that the man who lives and moves in the light of the Lord has no reason to stumble (fall back into sin), but the one who continues to carries their sins around grope in their ways in the darkness without His guidance and insight not seeing where or what they are moving themselves into. These are they who have a blindfold on who are spiritual blind because of their sins.

1Jn. 2:17 ... he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Clearly John says that the one who is actively seeking the Lord, who is appropriating what they have planted in their heart in this intimate time of fellowship, and then carries the will of God out, reveal their spiritual condition that they are among those who are actively abiding in the vital union and are counted by the Lord as eternally secure.

The Light Of The Lord - Our Transformation

1Jn. 3:2,3 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

From this we can say that when He is suddenly revealed at His coming we should know exactly when we stand, and not shrink away because we already are practicing being in His daily presence.

1Jn. 2:27 But the anointing (Spirit) which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

The effects are made known here that as we have been placed in this vital union the one who continues in the light of the Lord experiences the purifying work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Direct your focus on the last part of this verse which tells us that the interaction with the vital union and being in the light of the Lord causes us to be instructed personally in our own transformation, it is there in that instruction which is coming from the Spirit of truth that we are to abide in of Him. That Spirit teaches us in everything and urges us to live “in Christ.” So if we are true paying attention to our relationship with Him the result is assurance.

2Corin. 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass (mirror) the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Dwelling in the Light of the Lord transforms us and recovers the lost image, the stamp of Jesus Christ in our soul. The mirror is the very words of the Lord of which penetrate within us and bring about His change in us who are abiding.

Rom. 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

The transformation comes through dwelling in this light and we are changed into His image and likeness from glory to glory by His Spirit. There are not 3 wills of God A, B, and C, as some have been taught, but the verse reads according to translation, “that you may know the will of God, what is good, and acceptable, and perfect.” The will of God is made known as we abide in His presence. The keeping power of the Lord here is dependent upon us following in His divine will... understanding the mind of Christ is key.

Jn. 15:9,10 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments (words), ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments (words), and abide in his love.

We see that keeping the Lord's words sum up to being kept and His love being made known to us. The Lord is saying that His nature is to keep us from falling and that can only be realized by experiencing His love. His love is known to us as we abide in the vital union in the light of the Lord listening to His words and applying them in our lives. It is the nature of the Lord to preserve us blameless unto His coming.

2Pet. 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace (having peace with the Lord), without spot, and blameless.

Be diligent to be found "in Him!" The *manifestation* of our *transformation* is the evidence of a *working grace* in our lives. A message of false security has sold a convenient lie that we may live in eternal secure outside of an abiding relationship. None of the Apostles in the New Testament have ever taught any where in Scripture that *Eternal Security* is "outside" an abiding relationship with the Lord. Quite the contrary, the Lord Jesus in John 15 makes them understand that if they are to be saved eternally He is the total source of their eternal substance.

Jn. 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you.

Yet, for years many of those in the modern church major upon and give the people a false security (concept) which omits what the Apostles actually *taught on Eternal Security*, until people have swallowed this LIE whole. Jesus can only spiritually maintain those who are *actively following* and *interacting* with Him. So how do these teachers say eternal life is possessed by those outside of an abiding relationship? It is *falsely promised* them by telling them that their personal faith is merely a *post* salvation experience. The *early church did not* teach salvation in this way, nor did they in *the reformation* by *its reformers*. They taught that the salvation experience had a *past, present, and future* interactive relationship **BY FAITH** with Jesus Christ! Faith which is **ALIVE** was to them *an interactive* faith relationship now and forever more!

1Thess. 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The whole process of continual cleansing, covering, and delivering us, that keeps us, is based upon His work at the cross and is carried out through Jesus' High Priestly ministry. The blood of His cross is the same as at the mercy seat, one sacrifice actively entreated through an intimate relationship with the vital union "in Christ."

END

Discussion Time –
LIVING WATER MINISTRIES

by Minister R. Thomas Lambur

