



Mirrored in Him

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MIRRORED IN HIM

INTRODUCTION

All life comes from the Spirit of Life. In the Gospel of John, life and light are fundamental foundational principles that describe the life as a Christian based upon the incarnate Word of God. Living a life in Him is a choice, but if a person chooses wisely it leads to a fulfilled life of peace, joy, love and overall eternal goodness. “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it” (John 1:4-5). Comprehend in this context means to overpower, defeat, perceive, overcome or extinguish. In Him includes all aspects of life including life on earth and eternal.

Life in the light of God is a victorious life. The more you imitate or mirror the Master, the more life you will enjoy. “Jesus is the originator or author of life (zoe); the Life of God vs. existence (bios)” (Hockaday 1). Bios is actually a life with ultimate death. Zoe is eternal. Satan and all his demonic devices cannot destroy or stop the Spirit of Life. If you walk in the light, darkness must depart and is easily defeated. Have you every turned on a closet light and seen a fight between light and darkness? As soon as the power of light is tapped into, the darkness flees. Light overtakes it in a split second. There is no battle that rages on while you try to find something to wear. When the light of God is invited into your life, darkness is overcome.

In Him is the only path where we can experience the goodness of God. Walking in Him a walk in the light. “Darkness always exists wherever light isn’t” (Hockaday 2). John chapter four verses four and five declare that “In Him was life,” not death, destruction, poverty or lack.

The Bible has many references regarding light, sin or darkness, and abiding in the vine.

We are going to answer a few questions regarding a life mirrored in Him including:

1. What is sin?
2. Is it God?
3. How do you abide in the vine?

I. The Carnal Man

There are a lot of carnal ideas man has formed regarding the definition of sin and much of it is based upon church doctrines and religious ideas that leave out a very important aspect that should be foundational to every Christian belief, the scripture. We should evaluate everything we believe, have been taught, or teach to know which scripture is the basis or foundation for our belief. As Christians, we cannot believe anything we choose. We must believe the Bible.

The most dangerous lies are those rooted in truth. They have enough truth to be plausible but are evil. Plausibility is not a foundation for Christianity. Study and mirror the Word.

“The carnal man chooses what they want to believe based upon what their flesh desires. The darker the choices, the more carnal men become because there is no light in darkness. We are commanded to live holy lives mirrored in Him and to rule over our fleshly desires. “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace” (Romans 6:12-14).

The reason so many people fail to walk in the light and live victorious lives is that they preferred their lustful sinful ways over the love of God. “And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed” (John 3:19-20). These men saw the light and chose sin and death over love, life and light. They knew in their hearts what was right, but they overruled their hearts and chose

darkness allowing their flesh to rule and reign in their life. We are to be renewed by the transforming of our minds mirroring Christ so that we are spiritual men rather than carnal.

What is Sin?

Jesus spoke on vision and blindness in John chapter nine after healing a man who was born blind. A clear answer to what is sin is found at the end of this chapter. “Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains” (John 9:41). If you see think something is sin or see it as sin, then it is sin for you.

Sin is violation of doing what you see and know is right. It's to miss the mark. James explains sin as anything you know to do that is right and ignore it, then it is sin to you. If you have light or revelation on a subject, you ‘see’ things about the subject that others may not. When it comes to walking in the light, if you choose to violate or break the light that you see, it is considered sin for you. If someone does not yet truly see in their heart what you see, God does not hold them accountable for it as sin. God knows what a person has seen or been revealed to them through His Spirit. It could even been through teaching in school that cheating is wrong.

Sin has to do with lack of faith working by love. “But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin” (Romans 14:23). There are other versions that provide clarity of the difference between faith and sin. “But if you have doubts about whether or not you should eat something, you are sinning if you go ahead and do it. For you are not following your convictions. If you do anything you believe is not right, you are sinning” (Romans 14:23 NLT). This has to do with lack of faith which is doubt. If you do not have faith in God you ultimately have faith in what Satan can do in that area of your life. The Amplified expresses that anything done out of faith is sin.

“But the man who has doubts (misgivings, an uneasy conscience) about eating, and then eats [perhaps because of you], stands condemned [before God], because he is not true to

his convictions and he does not act from faith. For whatever does not originate and proceed from faith is sin [whatever is done without a conviction of its approval by God is sinful]" (Romans 14:23 AMP).

We have a spirit that bears witness with the Holy Spirit. If you ignore your spirit, you are violating the light. This violation is sin. Follow your heart, but if you miss it, there is cleansing available. Don't run from the Lord if you missed it. Faith without fellowship does not work.

Cleansing in the Light

One of the greatest benefits of abiding in Him is that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all unrighteousness which is cleansing us from all the light we have violated. "Hence, whenever *phos* appears, darkness must flee. *Phos* also refers to fire" (Hockaday 8). *Phos* is the Greek word for light. When the glory of God appears, darkness is immediately removed.

Light is the opposite of darkness. If trying to walk in darkness, you cannot clearly see what is in front of you. In a dark room you are liable to trip and stumble over obstacles. If you are walking in the light you will clearly avoid obstacles, pit falls and victoriously leap over hindrances.

In John chapter eight, the adulteress woman came face to face with the light of the world. The scribes and Pharisees one by one yielded to their conscience and the life of a lady was spared from death. The enemy will try to pressure you to pick between two bad choices that he presents which is what happened to Jesus in this situation. He was given two options to either stone her without love and mercy or to break the law. He did not answer the Pharisees. They thought they had Jesus cornered. They missed the mark big time!

"To most people God is an inference, not a reality. He is a deduction from evidence which they consider adequate, but He remains personally unknown to the individual" (Tozer 55). We must have fellowship with God, not just realize that He is God. He desires for an intimate

relationship. “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 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” (1 John 1:6). Think about the truth that if we walk in, abide in Him which is the light, that the blood of the lamb continually cleanses us from all unrighteousness. According to verse six, if we do not truly know something is sin, the blood cleanses us continually of un-holiness. Notice, it does not say cleansed but cleanses. As you abide in Him, the word which Jesus spoke cleanses us. If we reject the light and know it, we are held accountable.

There is more light to walk in that is readily available. Each of us are accountable to the light we have received. If you truly are not able to resist sin, you should not be accountable for the act. People say ‘I could not help it’ but this is a lie. Through Christ we can do all things that pertain to Godliness. We are commanded to not judge others, but we are to judge actions. We are not qualified to judge people because we truly do not know what light they have received.

II. GOODNESS OF GOD

Why do bad things happen? Disease, lack and poverty are all the result of sin and the schemes of the enemy. God’s goodness leads men, not to death but to eternal life. Psalms 34 is clear that you can taste and see or experience of the goodness of God. My mother in-law used to cook for me. If she was cooking and called me to the kitchen, I knew that I was about to taste goodness. I would get a smile on my face as I walked through the sweet aroma coming from the kitchen. As children of God, we should know that God has tremendous blessings in store for us. He delights in the prosperity of His children.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.’ Notice it doesn't say He is going to bless us with anything—but that He already has! This means that in Christ Jesus, from the time you are born-again until you step out into Eternity, He has already

made provision for you. Everything you need, He has blessed you with. It is yours. In the mind of God it is yours. Find His provisions for His children in His Word and make them become a reality in your life in Christ to the glory of God the Father! (Hagin 27).

There have been religious doctrines that have taught people that God may be good but sometimes He does bad things to teach his children. If God is partnering with Satan at times, we might as well quit because there is no way out. This false doctrine has created confusion.

Children of God who are led by the Spirit should be able to determine if something is of God, but there is a simple way to evaluate if something is of God. If it is good it is God. If it is bad, it is from carnal man or the enemy. There's a difference between good and bad. God's not bad, He's good. It's not a good day when you have tubes inserted in you and you're in severe pain or when you have so much financial pressure you can't pay your bills. People will try to tell you, "Well that may be good and you just don't know it." No, it's bad and they just don't know it. Religion is the only place where you find such stupid ideas! There is no such thing as a blessing in disguise. Blessings come from the Father of Light. In Him is revelation and clarity.

At a funeral for a small child the minister told the father of the little child that God took his child. The man was infuriated and left the church and to my knowledge he has never stepped back into a church since. This belief is a lie of the devil. We are to speak truth in love. This was neither the truth nor was there love in the statement. "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). God has been given a bad rap and been blamed for people not living a life of prosperity, health, peace or protection. This is the fake news of the Millennium!

The whole chapter of Psalms thirty-four is about the goodness of God. The writer states that "His praise shall continually be in my mouth." If you read the rest of the chapter you will

discover it is because he recognized that the goodness of the Lord delivered him from all his fears and troubles. It kept him from lack and ultimate death and will do the same for you.

III. ABIDING IN THE VINE

If the Lord was ever going to withhold anything from you it would have been Jesus. If there was ever anything that was too big and worth too much, it would've been Him but it's already done. He didn't just give - He freely gave us Jesus. If He will give you Jesus, what's a car? If He will give you Jesus, what's a house? If He freely gave us His own Son, won't He also give us everything else? In fact He has given us everything else when He gave us Jesus because it's all in Him. He's given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness according to Second Peter. He already has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places.

We cannot go days without natural food and water. Without abiding in the true vine of life, we will become weaker and weaker and eventually experience spiritual death. "A branch cannot sustain itself; it is dependent upon the life that flows through the vine" (Hockaday 128). It is vital to stay in the Word and not forsake the gathering.

Abide means to live in, stay in or dwell. "The Anointing which you have received of Him abides in you, and you need not that any man teach you: but as the same Anointing teaches you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it has taught you, you shall abide in Him" (1 John 2:27). Choose to connect and abide in the vine. He will reveal to you truths.

"When one is born-again he comes into Christ. That is the only way you can get "in Him." But then Jesus said, "... if my words abide in you ..." Abide means to live. His Word lives in me to the extent that I practice it. Many Christians are born-again, and in Him, but His Word is not abiding in them. That's why prayer doesn't work for them. The Word abides in me in the measure I practice it. I may memorize it, quote it, or even preach it, without it living in me. That Word lives in me only to the measure I practice it. I let that Word have free course in me—teaching me—governing me—dominating me. I let the message of that Word take the place in my life I would Christ if He were here in the flesh" (Hagin 15).

The Holy Spirit was sent according to John 14:16-17 to abide with us forever. The Father sent the Holy Spirit to abide in us as we abide in Him. The divine connection of abiding in Him produces fruit. You cannot produce fruit without staying in the vine. Jonah ran from Him and was thrown out of a ship. When he abided in the vine and went to Nineveh, fruit was produced. Lot got out of His will and separated himself from Abram who was his connection with God. He ended up in Sodom far from the vine of life. In Isaiah 14:12 Satan tried to speak faith words apart from the vine. He tried to apply Mark 11:23 contrary to the will of God and apart from the vine. Satan's plans did not succeed! A branch disconnected dries up and dies.

Walk in the Light

How are you going to walk in the light? "Then spoke Jesus again to them, saying, I am the light of the world: He that follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12). He is the light. He said, "You draw near to Me and I will draw near to you." If you believe in Him and reach out to Him, He will respond to you. He will reveal Himself to you. A key to walking in the light is to stir yourself up. You can decide to sleep all day or stir yourself up, arise and do something productive. You have a choice to abide in His Word, pray in the Spirit, speak truth in love and serve in the Kingdom. The more you do, the more you will experience the life giving light of God. "I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness" (John 12:46). Believe His every Word.

According to Genesis 5:24, Enoch walked with God to an amazing level to the point that he became a friend of God and was not. Not what? Not walking on earth as a human who experiences death. He did this by faith and if you're going to walk with God, you have to agree with Him. Amos 3:3 says this, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" You cannot. How are you going to walk with God? Paul the Apostle provided direction for us in Ephesians.

“Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light." (Ephesians 5:6-14).

The Bible tells us that in the beginning God revealed Himself to His first covenant people through the law. The giving of the law was the standard. Through Moses, He told them the Ten Commandments and all the ordinances such as you shall not lie, you shall not steal, you shall not commit adultery and you shall not kill. This was the law or standard until John the Baptist. Men in their own strength did not keep the standard. Every one of them fell short in keeping the perfect standard. The fullness of the Father has been displayed and expressed in Him. Aren't you glad Jesus held Himself to the standard? Now, He's your standard and mine. Jesus is the standard of what is right and what is wrong, what is good, what is evil, what is acceptable, what is unacceptable, what is clean and what is defiled. He is the standard.

We have ungodly people trying to give us their standards. Telling us what is acceptable. True Christians cannot set their own standards. Don't receive or believe these standards without the scripture. Somewhere between the baseness of the world and the perfection of Jesus they have set up their own standards. Your standards are not okay. My standards are not okay. There's only One standard. The Master; He's the standard.

Eat My Flesh, Drink My Blood

“He that eats My flesh, and drinks My blood, dwells in Me, and I in Him. As the living Father has sent Me, and I live by the Father: so He that eats me, even He shall live by Me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: He that eats of this bread shall live forever. These things said He in the synagogue, as He taught in Capernaum. Therefore many of His disciples, when they had heard this, they said, This is a hard saying; who can hear it?” (John 6:54-60).

The Amplified says, "Who can stand to hear this? This is a hard and difficult and strange saying (an offensive and unbearable message). Who can stand to hear it? [Who can be expected to listen to such teaching?]"

It's easy to imagine that you are unoffendable. But the opposite is true. Except by the grace of God and you choosing to make real quality decisions it can happen to you.

When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples murmured, He asked if they were offended. He was not trying to comfort them over eating His flesh. This is a test of who is going to follow and who is not. In order to be His disciple you must continue to follow when you don't understand. You must abide or dwell in Him.

Set Free into a Life of Joy

“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32). A disciple is a learner, follower or imitator. Believers became disciples through proper training which includes teaching and correcting. Endeavor to mirror His holiness. You are not a disciple just by attending church or through heritage. The way to become a disciple has not changed.

Notice that is John chapter fifteen that if you abide in the vine that you will produce fruit but if you reject the vine that you can do nothing. Anything that you do that accomplishes anything that will last eternal is because you abided in the vine. “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing” (John 15:4-5). It goes on to state that you will wither away and eventually be burned in the fire if you do not abide in the vine. What joy is

there in this thought? None, but Jesus and through His mercy and grace provided a way for us to produce fruit. The more we become His disciples, or imitators of Him, the more fruit will be produced. Verse seven starts with an 'if' which means it is conditional on what each of us choose. God is not holding anything back from His children. One way to abide in Him is by abiding, studying, meditating upon the Word of God. We are commanded to read our Bibles and to know his Word. If we follow these commands, then according to verse eleven our joy may be full. We are walking in the light and have divine revelation of the eternal goodness of God. We see lives changed and spared from eternal damnation which brings joy.

Resurrection Life

We already died in Him. We should not be in fear of death. Do you know why you don't have to be afraid to die? Because you already died. If He died for all, then we're all dead.

“For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation” (2 Corinthians 5:14-17).

Death has no more dominion over Him. When Jesus tasted death for every man, it means he tasted death for you and me. “We can overcome the devil no matter where we meet him or what the test. Satan's dominion ended and Jesus' dominion began in our lives the moment we accepted Jesus as Lord and were born-again” (Hagin 19).

Through His death and resurrection, did He did take your sins so that you could be in sin? Did He take your infirmities so you could be sick? Did He bear the chastisement of your peace so you could be oppressed? Did He become poor so you could be poor? Did He die so you could die? The answer to all these question is absolutely not. He died, He tasted death so you wouldn't have to and if you have faith in Him, then it's counted that you died in Him when He

died. "Jesus said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep My saying, he shall never see death" (John 8:51). He tasted death for me. I don't have to taste death. We should not be afraid to die. As believers, we have victory over the sting of death.

In John chapter eleven, it gets even stronger. The body of Lazarus was in the tomb and Jesus said, "I'm going to go wake Him up." The disciples said that Lazarus was dead and saw no way out other than the eventual resurrection. Jesus is the resurrection and the life and in Him we have life and according to John chapter eleven, verse twenty six we shall never die.

This life and all the freedoms, victories and abundance of life is in Him. There are over 140 similar expressions of about living a life in Him such as, "in Christ," "in Him," "in Whom," "through whom," etc. The more we experience a life in Him, the more victorious we will live. "In Him I live ... and move ... and have my being! What a vast storehouse of power! In Christ my Saviour and Lord I have Life! ... Energy! ... Strength for the impossible tasks!" Hagin 14).

CONCLUSION

Walking in the light is doing what you know is right. Living by what you see is right. Jesus is what's right for He is the light of the world. If you walk with Him, follow Him and walk in all the light you see you will not walk in darkness. His goodness is assured in perpetuity for all those mirrored in Him. We have resurrection, eternal life in Him as we mirror His ways.

The greater level of light we walk in or abide in will ultimately affect the peace and quality of life we have on earth and throughout eternity. If we choose to walk in the light, we have joy knowing the truth about our eternal destiny. If we choose to reject the light, the future is grim. Based upon the light you now have, it would be wise to choose to walk in the light and abide in Him. Reject sinful desires. I encourage you to choose wisely. As you endeavor to mirror the Master you will experience greater rejoicing about your future in Him.

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