



COUNTERING FALSE DOCTRINE

John starts by positioning himself as an original EYE-WITNESS.

- * I know it's TRUE, because I SAW it with my own two EYES.
- * Our FAITH, eternal LIFE, RELATIONSHIP with God, our JOY are all ROOTED in Jesus, who I saw risen from the dead.

A. GOD HAS GIVEN US THE LIGHT & WALKING IN IT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE

- * It's pretty clear that in our world there's One who is the LIGHT of the WORLD and another who is PRINCE OF DARKNESS.
 - * OPENING the door to one, CLOSES the door to the other.
 - * GOOD NEWS = You have FULL ACCESS to that light and can live in it ALL THE TIME.
- *What does 'walking in the light' look and feel like? Contrast that with what it feels like to be 'in the dark.'*
- *What is the Prince of Darkness' agenda? How does it pull in the opposite direction to the work of the Light of the World?*

3 LIGHT SOURCES

1. JESUS, who showed us what REAL light LOOKS like.
 2. HOLY SPIRIT, who helps us DISCERN light and darkness on a case by case basis.
 3. GOD'S WORD, which is a LAMP to guide our feet and a LIGHT for our path (Psalm 119:105).
- *What does 'real light' look like? How does that 'discernment' work?*
- *When you need light, do you go to the Word of God, and how do you personally go about finding it?*

"WALK in the LIGHT when it's made AVAILABLE to you."

- * Though you've received the Light, there's still DARKNESS in your soul; areas of your heart and mind that haven't been RENEWED yet.
- *What does it mean to talk about places that haven't been renewed yet? [Think lies, hurts, habits, attitudes, etc.]*
- * God takes you on a JOURNEY, gradually, progressively shining His LIGHT into those DARK places to bring you the FREEDOM, HEALING & WHOLENESS you seek.
- *Do you have any personal examples of times you 'saw the light,' changed what you were doing as a result, and saw significant breakthrough?*
- * REVELATION: God's Word needs to become more than just a nice IDEA, good THEORY or sound PRINCIPLE. It needs to become deeply PERSONAL ... to get off the PAGE and into your HEART.
- *How does one 'get revelation?' How do you personally tend to receive that revelation from the Lord?*

- * Then, once you've GOT IT, you must START to WALK in it (John 12:35, James 1:22-25).

BIG DIAGNOSTIC QUESTIONS ... For you ...

- *Where in your life is darkness still lingering?*
- *What darkness is your current set of circumstances uncovering?*
- *Where in your life are you ignoring the light you've been given?*
- *What's God trying to show you right now?*

B. IF WE'RE HONEST WITH OURSELVES & GOD ABOUT SIN IN OUR LIVES, WE CAN KEEP OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM STRONG & HEALTHY

- * Gospel = Though I am no longer a SINNER, sometimes I still SIN.
 - * Sin doesn't affect your SALVATION STATUS, per se, but it does DAMAGE your RELATIONSHIP with God (Psalm 103:12, Isaiah 1:18, Romans 8:1-2).
- *What are some of the consequences of sin? How does it 'damage' your relationship with the Lord?*
- * When I sin, God doesn't TURN His BACK on ME; I TURN my BACK on HIM.
- *When you sin, what does God say to you? Imagine God in the room, face-to-face: what do you think He'd say?*
- *When you sin, what are you essentially saying to God? What would you like to say to Him? Can you see the contradiction?*
- * 1 John 1:9 is ME SPINNING BACK AROUND.
 - * REPENTANCE is powerful as an ACTION; but even more so as an ATTITUDE.
 - * Repentance OPENS the door to LIGHT; STUBBORN REFUSAL opens the door to the DARK.
- *What do you think of when you hear the word 'repent?' What is the difference between repentance as an action and as an attitude?*
- *Would you say that you were quick to repent? Why is that a good thing? What happens in marriages when both parties are quick to repent?*
- * God wants to SANCTIFY us (to work in our hearts to restore, cleanse and heal). If we DIG our HEELS in and remain UNREPENTANT, He can't do that.
- *What are the dangers of an unrepentant heart? Where might that lead? How does it damage your relationship with the Lord? How about your relationships with other people?*
- * GOOD NEWS: If you keep your heart SOFT & OPEN, cultivating an ATTITUDE of willing repentance, there is no limit to what God can do IN you, and, therefore, THROUGH you.
- *Can God use someone who is slow to repent? What are the barriers? What can go wrong?*

SUMMARY: 2 High Quality Decisions

1. I'm going to endeavour to WALK in the LIGHT when it becomes AVAILABLE to me.
2. I'm going to CULTIVATE a soft, open REPENTANT heart.

RESPONSE QUESTIONS

1. *Have you 'seen the light,' but failed, even refused to walk in it yet?*
2. *Is there something / anything / sin standing between you and God right now, and what are you going to do about it?*