

## **God's Light, Life, Love for Us to Fight for the Kingdom**

- I. God is Light** (1 John 1:5)
  - A. In God's creation, light comes as one of the first things (Gen 1:3)
  - B. The True Light (John 1:9)
    - 1. Contrast with darkness
      - a. Jesus Christ is the true Light (John 1:9); this light enlightens the believer (Heb 6:4) I am the light of the world (John 12:46; John 9:5; John 12:35-36)
      - b. This light exposes (John 1:5, 1 John 1:5); and guides us (Luke.1:78-79)
      - c. We see light in His light (Psalm 36:9); We see clearer in His light... our eyes have been likened to the light (Matt. 6 :22-23). We need to see clearly to be able to love (Luke 6:39-42).
      - d. Called into His marvelous light. (1 Pet.2:9; 1 Tim. 6:16; Dan. 2:22)
      - e. Without Christ we are in darkness; (Matt. 4:16; Is. 9:2)
  - C. Let your light so shine (Matt. 5:16); If we walk in the light, we cannot walk in darkness (1 John 1:6); we will have fellowship with God (1 John 1:7); we cannot hate the brothers (1 John 2:9); we must love the brothers (1 John 2:10).
  - D. Conclusion – We are God's hope and only hope to bring back His kingdom. We cannot afford to fail Him. (Matt. 5:14-16; Phil. 2:12-16)

**II. We are children of God** (John 1:12-13; 1 John 3:2-3; 5:1)

- A. God created man according to His plan  
(Gen. 1:26-28, 31; 2:7)
- B. After man's fall Satan's nature came into man  
(Gen. 2:17, 3:6)
  - 1. Sin (Rom. 5:12)
  - 2. Disobedience (Eph. 2:2; Rom. 1:28-32)
  - 3. Darkness (John 3:19; Matt. 4:16; Eph. 4:18)
  - 4. Death (Rom. 5:12, 14a)
- C. God loves us (Acts 26:18; 1 Pet. 2:9)
  - 1. God's Salvation (John 1:29; 3:16-18)
  - 2. Man must be born again (John 3:3, 7)
  - 3. The salvation of our souls (1 Pet. 1:9, 22; 2:11, 25)
  - 4. We have a spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:7)
- D. Our cooperation: Work out our own salvation with fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12; Heb. 7:24-25)
  - 1. Keeping His Commandments (1 John 2:3-4)
  - 2. Our conscience (Rom. 9:1-2; Act. 23:1, 24:16; Heb. 10:19-22; 1 Tim. 1:5)
  - 3. Our heart (Ezek. 11:19-20; 18:31-32)
  - 4. Do not quench the Spirit (1 Thess. 5:19-22; 1 Cor. 2:10-13)
  - 5. Walking in the Light (2 Cor. 6:14-18; 7:1; Eph. 5:8)
  - 6. Put off the old man and put on the New Man (Eph. 4:22-24)
  - 7. Looking for the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thess. 5:23; Tit. 2:11-15)

**III. God is Love** (1 John 4:7-8, 16)

- A. Light and love: two wonderful attributes of God – we can sense and see His love in all His works
- B. His love for man can be seen in His creation (1 Tim. 6:17)

- C. His love for His people in the Old Covenant (Deut. 7:7; Jer. 31:3)
- D. His love in His redemptive work (Rom. 5:6-10; Eph 2:1-5; 1 John 3:1)
- E. His love for the church (Eph. 5:25-30; John 21:15-18)
- F. The need to be perfected in His love
  - 1. To love Him with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matt. 22:37-39)
  - 2. Taught by God through the anointing (1 Thess. 4:9-10; 2 Thess. 1:3-4)
  - 3. By being filled with His Love through the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5; Gal 5:22)
  - 4. Be constrained by His love (2 Cor. 5:14)
  - 5. If we love God, we will love one another (1 John 4:21; 5:1-2)
  - 6. Speaking the truth in love (Eph. 4:15; Col. 1:28)
  - 7. Making intercession in love for one another (Col. 4:12)
- G. Not leaving our first love (Rev. 2:4; 2 Tim. 4:10; 1 John 2:15)

#### **IV. Growing toward real love** (2 Pet. 1:4-11)

- A. Love only comes from life (1 John 4:7) therefore, the life within us must grow
- B. A growth progression to enter the Kingdom (2 Pet. 1:4-11)
  - 1. Love cannot be in isolation but all attributes mentioned need to grow and increase as a foundation for proper love
  - 2. Love needs to develop and be perfected (1 John 2:5; 4:12, 17)
  - 3. People often want to jump straight to love and overlook knowledge, self-control, etc.
    - a. Justification and living by faith (Heb. 11:1; Rom. 3:28; Gal 2:16);

Righteousness that comes by faith (Rom. 3:21-22)

- b. Virtue – Having proper conduct (Phil. 1:27; 1 Tim. 4:12; James 3:13)
- c. My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hos. 4:6)
- d. Self-control – bringing body into subjection (1 Cor. 9:27); set your mind on things above (Col. 3:2)
- e. Perseverance through tribulations (Rom. 5:3); being watchful in prayer with all perseverance (Eph. 6:18)
- f. Exercise toward godliness (1 Tim. 4:7-8); practice holy conduct and godliness (2 Pet. 3:11)
- g. Brotherly kindness – “*philadelphia*” – love toward brothers and sisters (Rom. 12:10; 1 Pet. 1:22)

#### **V. God the Father’s love for His children (Heb. 12:5-11)**

- A. Normal for children to be disciplined by their father (Eph. 6:1-4; Luke 2:42)
  - 1. The Lord’s chastening (Matt. 16:22-24; 19:20-22; Rev. 2-3)
  - 2. Paul instructed Timothy (1 Tim. 1:18-20)
  - 3. Speaking the truth in love (Eph. 4:15)
- B. The children’s love for their father (Eph. 6:1-2)
  - 1. Our attitude in receiving the chastening (Heb. 12:9)
    - a. Hardened heart (Gen. 4:2-14; Matt. 19:20-22; 2 Tim. 3:2)
    - b. Repenting heart (2 Sam. 12; Ps. 51)
  - 2. Trained by His grace (Titus 2:11-14)
  - 3. Exhorting one another (Heb. 10:25)
- C. The goal of the Father’s chastening (Heb. 12:10-11)
  - 1. Perfect every man in Christ (Col. 1:28)
  - 2. Proper family and church life (1 Tim. 3:1-13)

3. Kings and priest to reign on the earth with Christ in the Millennial Kingdom age (Rev. 1:5-6; 5:9-10; 20:6)

## **VI. God's love for His kingdom** (Matt. 11:12; Eph. 6:10-19)

- A. The battle for God's kingdom (Matt. 11:12; Eph. 6:10-19)
  1. Satan - the murderer and liar (John 8:44)
    - a. The whole world is under his control (1 John 5:19; Eph. 2:2-3; 1 John 2:16)
    - b. Goal is to divide God's people to destroy Zion (Matt. 12:25; 2 Cor. 2:11)
  2. The spiritual battle from the beginning (Gen. 3:1)
    - a. Cain killed his brother Abel (1 John 3:11-12)
    - b. Israel (Josh. 1:2-9)
    - c. Jesus's entire life was a battle (Matt. 2:13; Luke 4:13; Matt. 12:14; Mark 15:11-13)
    - d. The church (Matt. 16:18-19; 2 Tim. 4:16-18)
    - e. The battleground in us (Gal. 5:16-24)
- B. We are the soldiers of Christ (2 Tim. 2:3-4; Eph. 6:10-18)
  1. Be strong in the Lord, put on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:10-12)
  2. The target (Eph. 6:12; 2 Cor. 10:2-5; James 4:1-3; Col. 2:15; Matt. 16:23)
  3. Fight together with the Lord and His army (1 Pet. 5:8-9; Neh. 4:17-18)
    - a. Skilled in using the weapon – the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17; Matt. 4:3-10; Rev. 19:15; 2 Tim. 2:15)
    - b. Always pray in the Spirit for the saints (Eph. 6:18; 1 Sam. 12:23)
    - c. Laying down our lives for the brethren (1 John 3:16)
- C. Prepare for the ultimate battle when the Lord comes (Rev. 19:11-21)

## **VII. The Church: Manifestation of God's love and life to fight the spiritual battle**

- A. Love is directly connected to life (1 John 3:14)
- B. Real love can only come from God
  - 1. Love is of God (1 John 4:7)
  - 2. Love is of the Holy Spirit in us (Gal. 5:22)
  - 3. Love of God is poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5)
- C. Real love from God can only be found in the church among God's people; it doesn't exist in the people of the world because there's no life and it belongs to Satan. (Rom. 5:12; 1 John 5:19)
- D. Love toward God
  - 1. Our main concern is for God's interests, not ours (Matt. 7:21; 16:23)
  - 2. The church ought to love Christ just as the bridegroom loves the bride (Eph. 5:25-27)
- E. Love toward one another
  - 1. A commandment from God to love our brother (1 John 4:20-21)
  - 2. Have fervent love for one another (1 Pet. 4:8)
  - 3. Children of God have love for the brethren; children of the devil do not (1 John 3:10)
- F. Satan tries to bring in death, sin, division to damage God's kingdom, the church
  - 1. We cannot be ignorant and must realize this battle we're in is to damage the kingdom and frustrate God's plan (Eph. 6:12)
  - 2. Recognize Satan's schemes and evil in the world and stand against it. Resist, warn, pray, fight. (James 4:7; Eph. 6:10-20)