

Living Faithful Until Death

One of the realities of growing older is realizing that our parents often knew what was best for us. As children or teenagers, we sometimes resisted their guidance, only to look back years later and admit, "I should have listened."

Our relationship with our Heavenly Father is far more serious. While we may regret poor choices in this life and have opportunities to change, there will come a day when our eternal destiny is sealed. As Hebrews 9:27 reminds us, "it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." There will be no opportunity to go back and live differently after that day.

The apostle John reminds us of a vital truth in 1 John 1:5-7: "God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all." Because God is light, those who belong to Him must continually strive to walk in that light. Christianity is not simply about the day we were baptized; it is about faithfully following Christ every day afterward.

Walking in the light means rejecting the darkness of sin and choosing a life of righteousness, truth, and obedience. It means allowing God's Word to shape our thoughts, attitudes, and actions. It means confessing our sins, seeking His forgiveness, and continually growing in our relationship with Him. John assures us that as we "walk in the light... the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

The Christian life is not one of sinless perfection, but of faithful perseverance. We will stumble at times, yet God's grace is available to those who humbly return to Him and continue walking in His ways. Our goal is not merely to wear the name "Christian," but to live in such a way that our lives reflect Christ each day.

Jesus never promised that the Christian life would be easy, but He did promise that it would be worth it. To the church in Smyrna He declared, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Revelation 2:10).

May each of us examine our own walk with God. Are we living in His light? Are we allowing His Word to direct our steps? Let us encourage one another to remain faithful, knowing that our hope is found not in a single moment of obedience, but in a lifetime of trusting and following our Lord until He calls us home.

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