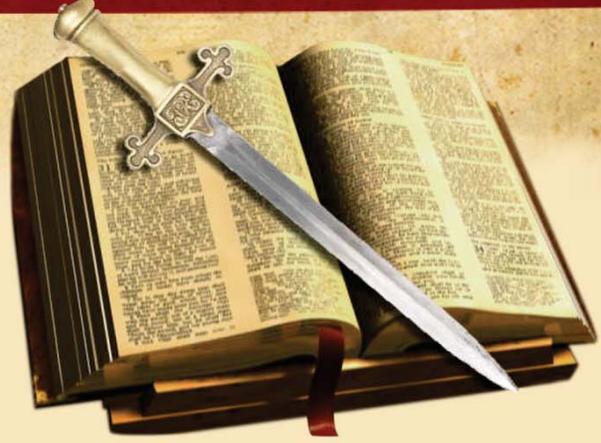


Setting Your Heart on the Kingdom



1 JOHN

No More Darkness for Me!

(The Principle of: Purification... Walking in God's Light)

1 John 1:5-10

With his heart pounding, the young accountant closed the books and signed the financial statement. Feeling pressure from within and without, he did what he had vowed he'd never do. He "cooked" the books! With a sick feeling in his stomach, he walked into the darkness of the night and into the darker world of corporate fraud. Yearning for daybreak, he cried out to God, *"How did I ever get caught up in this? I can't go through with it, no matter what happens! Forgive me, Lord! Cleanse me of my sins! Restore my walk with you! No more darkness for me!"*

She was young, lonely and ignored. Married only two years, she felt betrayed by a husband with a mistress. But it wasn't another woman...it was his career! Justifying what she knew was wrong, she found a secret companion in the dark recesses of the Internet. With sensual words that she longed to hear, she entertained the flirtations of a stranger...until she cried out to God! *"No! I can't live this lie any longer. Lord, forgive me and restore my marriage!"* Sensing the loving light of God shining in her heart, she sobbed, *"No more darkness for me!"*

The light of God...to the repentant sinner, it's like the purifying rays of the sun cleansing a garment. But to the unrepentant and wicked heart, it's like the police spotlight exposing secret deeds of darkness (*John 3:19-21*). And they who purposely walk out of darkness into God's light have their fellowship with Him restored and their sins cleansed. Oh, the wondrous grace of God... *"who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds"* (*Titus 2:14*).

Beloved of the Lord, God's light is His "reversing agent" in a corrupt world. With it He began the purification process of a planet "covered in darkness" (*Gen. 1:1-4*). With it He reverses Satan's work in your life (*2 Cor. 4:4-6*). So, don't run from God's light; run to it! Don't just agonize over your sins; purify them in God's gracious light. *And then the Lord will transform you into what you never thought possible. You'll become His light in a dark and perverse world* (*Eph. 5:7-11; Philip. 2:15*).

Next: The Kingdom of God in 2 John - Entertaining the Antichrist!

