

The background features a dark, starry night sky with numerous small, bright yellow and white stars. Overlaid on this are large, flowing, ethereal waves of light. On the left side, there are vibrant orange and yellow waves, resembling fire or a sunset. On the right side, there are deep blue and purple waves, resembling a night sky or a nebula. The waves flow horizontally across the frame, creating a sense of movement and depth.

# *Eternal Life*

**A Study of 1 John**

# Agree / Disagree

1. It is possible to know God.
2. It is possible to know God completely.
3. It is possible *to think* that we know God.
4. It is possible *to know* that we know God.

## 1 John 1:5-10

- God's Message to Man (Part 2)
  1. The Information of the Message (5)
  2. The Implications of the Message (6-10)

# The Information of the Message

- “God is Light”
  - Not a *scientific* definition of God
  - Light is not God
  - Illustration in human terms of God’s essence/  
nature/character
    - Because of what light does and what it  
symbolizes

# The Information of the Message

- Light *illuminates*
  - It reveals what is hidden in the dark; enables us to see
  - God want us to know Him but He's *hidden*
  - God is *knowable*
    - Not *comprehensively* but *truly*
    - Because He has revealed Himself

# The Information of the Message

- Light symbolizes / emphasizes:
  - God's Presence/Favor (Ps. 44:3)
  - God's Glory (Ps. 104:1-2)
  - Holiness/Righteousness/Goodness (Isa. 5:20)
  - Truth/Knowledge/Understanding (Ps. 43:3)
  - Disclosure (Job 12:12)

# God's Nature/Character

Creation

*Light*

*Life*

*The Truth*

*Peace*

*Wisdom*

God's Word

The Law

Jesus Christ

# The Information of the Message

- Light: God's **self-revelation** and **expectations**
  - “Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, ‘**I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me** will not **walk** in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.’” (John 8:12)
  - “**Your word** is a lamp **to my feet** and a light **to my path.**” (Ps. 119:105)



# The Information of the Message

- Light: God's **self-revelation** and **expectations**
  - Eph. 5:8-11
  - John 3:19-21
    - Light exposes deeds
    - “practices the truth” = *doing the truth* (cf. 1 John 1:6)

# The Implications of the Message

- Three scenarios (real or anticipated?)
  - Based on “God is Light”
  - As we come to the light we become more aware of our deeds & motives (John 3:19-21)
  - Formula: “if we say... then... but...” (except #3)
  - But first, a little *vocabulary* ...

# The Implications of the Message

- *Fellowship* = sharing, active participation
  - “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42)
- *Fellowship with Him* = pursuing / participating in *life* as God defines it

# The Implications of the Message

- *Walk* = how you conduct yourself, according to certain rules or principles (cf. Eph. 4:1, 17)
  - *Walk in the Light* = conduct yourself in line with God's character & expectations (*holy*)
  - *Walk in the darkness* = conduct yourself in opposition to God's character & expectations (*sin*)

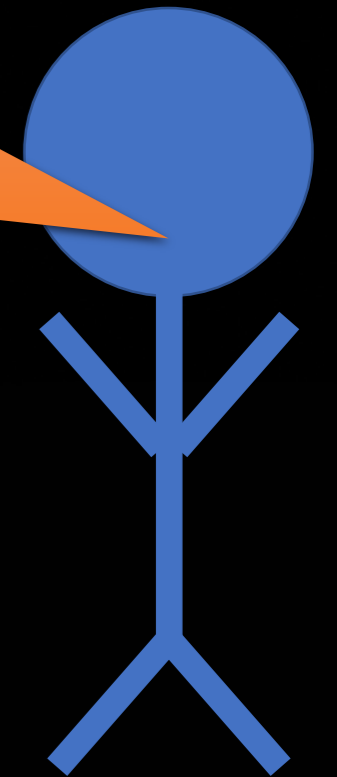
# The Implications of the Message

- **If we say** “I am actively participating in *Life with God*” yet habitually conduct ourselves in ways contrary to God’s character, **we are lying**

“Liar, liar,  
pants on fire”

God’s Light

“I have fellowship  
with God”



# The Implications of the Message

- **If we say** “I am actively participating in *Life with God*” yet habitually conduct ourselves in ways contrary to God’s character, **we are lying**
  - And *we are not doing* the truth (John 3:21)
    - If it is true, act on it!
    - Truth is not just known, it is to be *obeyed* (see Rom. 2:8; Gal. 5:7; cf. 2 Pet. 1:3-11)

# The Implications of the Message

- Instead, we are to habitually conduct ourselves in line with God's character

"I have fellowship with God"

"I have fellowship with God"

"I have fellowship with God"

God's Light



# The Implications of the Message

- Instead, we are to habitually conduct ourselves in line with God's character, which results in
  - Fellowship with *one another* (see 1:3)
    - No one can see your fellowship with God, but all can see if you have it with others
    - Cf. James 2:14a – “What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works?”



# The Implications of the Message

- Instead, we are to habitually conduct ourselves in line with God's character, which results in
  - Jesus' blood cleanses us from all sin?
    - Sin breaks fellowship
    - As we walk in God's light, Jesus' blood covers our sin, maintains our fellowship, and purifies us (*sanctification*; cf. Rom. 6)

# The Implications of the Message

- If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us
  - Denial of *sinfulness*? Or claim of *perfection*?
  - The more we know of God's truth, the more we will see that we fall short of His ideals
  - Denial proves the truth is not in us
    - This is self-deception ("liar, liar...")

# The Implications of the Message

- Instead, we should confess our sins as we become aware of them (cf. Lev. 4:27-31)
  - God is faithful to His Character (Ex. 34:6-7)
  - God will do what is right and forgive, when the conditions are met (cf. Lev. 4:31b)
    - Jesus was the sacrifice (see v 7)
- Confession -> cleansing (humility -> grace)

# The Implications of the Message

- If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us
  - Some people: “I have never sinned!”
  - God: “all have sinned” (Rom. 3:23; cf. 9-18)
  - Ergo, you are calling God a liar, and you prove you don’t know/understand His word
    - Denial of God’s whole plan of redemption

# The Implications of the Message

- Pattern: truth -> practice (doctrine -> action)
  - E.g. - *God is light -> walk in God's light*
  - What you believe -> how you live
- How do we know if we are walking in the light?
  - Eph. 5:8-10
  - Flesh vs. Spirit (Gal. 5:19-23; cf. Col. 3:5-17)

## So What?

- John wants us to know that we have eternal life (1 John 5:13)
  - Are you living in line with God's character? (i.e. - holiness, righteousness, truth, etc.)
  - What do you do when you don't?
    - Do you *own up to your sin*? (see Ps. 51)
    - Do you confess your sin?