



1 John 1:5-7 [NLT]

⁵ This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all.

⁶ So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth.⁷ But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

**The goal is not to be a better VERSION of ourselves,
but to be a better REFLECTION of him.**

John 8:12b [NIV]

*"I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will
never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life."*

1 John 1:8-10 [NLT]

⁸ If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. ⁹ But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

**We don't need to be good at
doing great THINGS,
but rather doing good things
with great LOVE.**

*"Darkness cannot drive
out darkness;
only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate;
only love can do that."
- Martin Luther King, Jr.*

How to receive forgiveness from God:

- 1) Admit you, like everyone else, need new LIFE in Jesus.
- 2) Ask God to forgive your sins by the sacrifice of Jesus.
- 3) Receive new LIFE from God by trusting in Jesus as your Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to live for you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.

If you chose to follow Jesus today, text “FAITH” to 309-250-2007 to receive additional information about next steps in following Jesus.

For Further Reflection:

:: Think of time you had to make an important “either-or” choice in life. What happened? How did you make that decision?

:: Reread 1 John 1:5-10.

:: What stands out to you most in these 6 verses?

:: What are some implications of God being light & without darkness?

:: Why is it important for us to recognize Him as that?

:: How might that reality change or impact the way we live each day?

:: Pastor Shawn said, “The goal is not to be a better version of ourselves, but to be a better reflection of him.” What does that mean to you?

:: Why is it important to make that distinction?

:: What can happen when we choose “improving” over “reflecting”?

:: What are specific ways we can “reflect” Jesus in our daily lives?

:: How does sin impact that, and what can/should we do about it?

:: What are some practical ways we can do “good things with great love”?

:: Pick 1 way you can live that out this week, and invite a friend to pray as you do.

Unless otherwise noted, today’s Scripture is from the New Living Translation [NLT].

Shawn Cossin (@shawncossin) – August 1 & 2, 2020

Watch this message and other recent messages online at heritageqc.com/watch

As part of our journey through the book of 1 John, we invite you to engage in a 25-day bible reading plan that leads you through all of John's writings. Go to www.bible.com or your YouVersion Bible App and search for "Writings of John". Invite a few friends from your circle and let's continue learning together!



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