

Devotional Guide
Walk as Children of Light
Ephesians 5:8 – 14

Monday

Ephesians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:5 – 10; Philippians 2:15; Matthew 5:14 – 16; John 12:36

Paul's direction in Ephesians regarding the Christian walk begins in Ephesians 4:1 with the imperative to "walk worthy of your calling"; proceeds in Ephesians 5:2 with the injunction to "walk in love", and in Ephesians 5:8 continues with the direction to "walk as children of the light."

Think About It: The imagery of walking in the light is found many places in Scripture. Based on the references for today, how do we become children of the light? What kind of behavior should characterize children of the light? In what kind of behaviors do children of the light not engage?

Prayer: That I might walk as a child of the light.

Tuesday

Ephesians 5:9; Ephesians 2:1 – 2; Acts 26:18; Galatians 5:22 - 24

Paul describes what it means to walk as children of the light in Ephesians 5, beginning in verse 9 with a reference to the "fruit of light." This mixed metaphor is appropriate in view of the consistent use of "fruit" in the New Testament to refer to the results of a way of life.

Think About It: Based on the references for today, what is the "fruit of light" to which Paul refers? Does my life give evidence of the fruit of light?

Prayer: Lord, may the fruit of light be evident in my life.

Wednesday

Ephesians 5:10; Leviticus 1 – 5; Micah 6:8; Mark 12:30 – 31; Psalm 133:1; 1 Corinthians 1:21; Matthew 3:17; 17:5

Walking in the light involves discerning what is pleasing to the Lord. Scripture says many times that the Lord is pleased by the sweet-smelling aroma of sacrifices. What is pleasing to the LORD, based on the significance of the various burnt offerings: voluntary acts of worship, devotion, commitment, surrender to God; recognition of God's providence; thanksgiving; fellowship with God's people; confession of sin; cleansing from defilement; making restitution for wrong done to others. Above all, what pleases God is trusting in the means of atonement God has provided. The Old Testament sacrifices foreshadow the once for all atonement provided by Christ.

Think About It: What other insights into what pleases the Lord are found in the Scripture references for today in Micah, Mark, Psalms, 1 Corinthians, and Matthew? Am I trying to discern what pleases the Lord in my daily walk?

Prayer: For discernment to know what thoughts, words, and actions are pleasing to the Lord.

Thursday

Ephesians 5:11, 13, 14; John 3:20 – 21; Genesis 5:21 – 24; Jude 14 - 15

Walking as children of the light involves exposing the works of darkness by being the light. We don't have to conduct an inquisition of the darkness. The light of Christ shines into the darkness through the witness of holy, upright lives and conviction of sin results.

Think About It: Enoch is one biblical example of a "child of the light" whose righteous life was a witness to those in the darkness around him. What are some other examples of this from Scripture, from history, or from my personal experience? Am I being the light?

Prayer: Lord, by Your grace strengthen me to live a devout and holy life.

Friday

Ephesians 5:11; Galatians 5:19 – 21; Romans 6:21, 13:12; 2 Corinthians 6:14

Walking as children of the light involves the negative as well as the positive, just as there are things forbidden to us if we walk in love. Children of light must not take part in the unfruitful works of darkness.

Think About It: What are some of the unfruitful works of darkness that must be avoided by children of the light? What does it mean to be unequally yoked with unbelievers?

Prayer: Lord, help me to cast every vestige of the works of darkness.

Saturday

Ephesians 5:12 - 14; Ephesians 5:3; Isaiah 60:1

Even speaking of the things done in secret by the sons of disobedience is shameful for those who walk as children of the light. Jamieson and Fausset's commentary interprets this to mean we should not speak of shameful things *without reproving them*. Matthew Henry comments "a good man is ashamed to speak that which many wicked people are not ashamed to act; but as far as their wickedness appears, it should be reproved." The message of those who walk as children of the light is summed up in Ephesians 5:14, which echoes the prophetic word of Isaiah 60:1.

Think About It: What are the pitfalls involved in speaking of "the things they do in secret", namely, of the works of darkness?

Prayer: Lord, help me to shine with the light of Christ.

Sunday

Ephesians 5:11 – 12; Romans 6:21; Titus 3:14; 2 Timothy 2:15

Ephesians 5 verses 11 – 12 contain two indications of why children of light should not engage in the works of darkness: 1) those works are unfruitful; 2) the works of darkness are shameful. Children of light are to be fruitful, and not ashamed.

Think About It: Am I a fruitful Christian? Am I doing anything that I have to hide for shame?

Prayer: Lord, help me to be fruitful, and to walk unashamed in Your light.