



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Psalms Sermon Series

Supports Session 9: God's Conviction

Sermon Title: "Faithful to Forgive" (1 John 1:5-10)

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### Connection to Session 9

Psalms 38 details the damaging effects of sin and the need for confession and repentance. First John 1:5-10 is a New Testament passage that connects with the themes of sin, confession, and forgiveness.

### Introduction/Opening

Imagine having to work and live by candlelight. When the sun descends beneath the horizon, no light is visible, and life has to continue by the faint light of a candle. All of this changed in 1879 when Thomas Edison invented the first light bulb. Now, fast forward to our modern context and all we have to do to is flip a light switch and light eliminates the darkness in the room, allowing us to see. Because of the lightbulb, we can do everything from drive our vehicles in the dark to look for crabs at night on the beach with flashlights. Light expels the darkness. This is why it would be absurd to say the lights are on when it is pitch black in the room. This is essentially John's argument in 1 John 1:5-10. If God is light, and we say we walk with him, we cannot also walk in darkness at the same time.

### Outline

#### 1. God is Light (1 John 1:5)

- a. This passage contrasts the purity and holiness of God, which is framed as light, and sin and unrighteousness, which is framed as darkness. John does not mince words: there is "absolutely no darkness" in God (v. 5). God dwells in "unapproachable light" (1 Tim. 6:16). It is vital we understand that God's nature is the basis for John's appeal. God is perfectly pure and holy, without sin or impurity.
- b. Sin entered the world through the rebellion of humanity (Gen. 3), shrouding our lives in darkness in many ways. However, God is entirely free of sin and darkness.
- c. The Old Testament prophesied about the coming Messiah who would be a "great light" (Isa. 9:2). Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

#### 2. Darkness and Light Cannot Coexist (1 John 1:6)

- a. As soon as we turn on the light switch, the darkness retreats from the room. The division of light and darkness can be traced back to the first chapter of the Bible

when God created the earth. Darkness covered the deep (Gen. 1:2), and God introduced light through his word (Gen. 1:3). Seeing that light was good, God separated light from darkness. These two realities would forever be opposed to one another, both in creation and in salvation.

- b. As those who have been saved and redeemed, we have been called out of darkness to walk in the “marvelous light” of God (1 Pet. 2:9). In John 12:46, Jesus said, “I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me would not remain in darkness.”
- c. To say that we have fellowship with God, and yet actively walk in darkness, makes us liars (1 John 1:6).

### **3. Walking in God’s Light Demonstrates Our Fellowship and Forgiveness (1 John 1:6-7)**

- a. When we walk in God’s light, there is evidence that we genuinely have fellowship with God and other believers. We experience forgiveness of sin through Jesus. It must be stated clearly that we do not earn salvation by trying to walk in righteousness; we evidence our salvation when we walk in the light.
- b. Fellowship with other believers is an integral part of the Christian faith. After Peter preached the gospel to the crowds in Acts 2, the believers came together and had fellowship with one another. They devoted themselves to the apostle’s teaching, the breaking of bread, and prayer (Acts 2:42-47).
- c. Paul encouraged the believers in Ephesus to “walk as children of light” in Ephesians 5:8. Biological children often look like other family members. Sometimes the resemblance of father and son or mother and daughter is uncanny! In the same way, if God is our Father, our nature should increasingly look like His.

### **4. Forgiveness is Available if We Confess the Darkness in Us (1 John 1:8-10)**

- a. The Bible is clear that no one is righteous before God (Rom. 3:23). All of our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment (Isa. 64:6). As believers, we consistently struggle with our flesh. In order to confess the darkness in us, we must first acknowledge its presence, or else we deceive ourselves (1 John 1:8).
- b. There is a great promise with the confession of sin—God is faithful to forgive us of our sin and “all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). How can God be faithful and just to forgive us? God can be just in forgiving repentant sinners because Jesus Christ died to save them. His justice is upheld because Christ has paid the penalty for their sin. God is faithful to forgive because He never lies. He promises to forgive those who trust in His Son.

## **Conclusion**

When the Spirit convicts us of sin, we should not shirk from the conviction and attempt to say “we have no sin.” Instead, in humility, we should confess our sin before God, who is faithful to forgive all who trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. Jesus paid the penalty for sin when He died on the cross so that we can be forgiven and able to walk in God’s light.

*Jesse Welliver is the Senior Pastor of Summit Baptist Church in Loganville, GA. He earned his M.Div. and Ph.D. from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, NC. He is married to Rachel, and they have four daughters.*

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