

# Living in the Light

A STUDY IN 1<sup>ST</sup> JOHN

**Pastor Dave Patterson**  
**Living in the Light Part 2—The One Thing**  
**4.25.2021**

## **USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

**Am I truly living in the light or am I just visiting the light while living as a resident of darkness?**

***There is no such thing as “dual citizenship” in the Kingdom of God.***

**[1 John 5:13, AMP]**

I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **so that you may know** (with settled and absolute assurance) that you have eternal life.

**Know / Greek *eido* = To discover by experience, inspection and examination**

**[2 Timothy 3:16]**

**All Scripture is inspired by God** and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

**[1 Peter 1:24-25, TPT]**

Human beings are *frail and temporary*, like grass,  
and the glory of man *fleeting*  
like blossoms of the field.

The grass dries and withers and the flowers fall off,  
but **the Word of the Lord endures forever!**

**[Matthew 24:35, AMP]**

The heavens and the earth [as we now know them] will pass away, but **My words will never pass away.**

**[Jeremiah 1:12, AMP]**

“I am actively watching over My word to fulfill it.”

**[1 John 2:1-6, NLT]**

My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.

**And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments.** If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. **That is how we know** we are living in

him. Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

**[1 John 2:1a]**

My dear children, I am writing this to you **so that you will not sin.**

**[1 John 2:1b-2]**

**But if anyone does sin**, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.

**[1 John 2:2]**

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours **but also for the sins of the whole world.**

**[1 John 2:4-5a]**

And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him.

***To obey: Hebrew (shema’) = hearing with attention, understanding and response.***

***In the Hebrew understanding, the word “listen” means to allow the words to sink in, provide understanding, and generate a response. In other words, in Hebrew, “listening” and “doing” are basically the same thing... - Tim Mackie***

### [Luke 8:18, NLT]

“So pay attention to **how you hear**. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are **not listening**, even what they think they understand will be taken away from them.”

### [Luke 10:38-42]

As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. Her sister, **Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught**. But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, “Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me.”

But the Lord said to her, “My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! **There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it**, and it will not be taken away from her.”

### THE ‘ONE THING’

- **Sitting** at the feet of Jesus = proximity (intentional)
- **Listening** = paying attention and perceiving truth
- **Responding** = doing what he says

***Obedience is not a way to prove that you love God or a way to earn His favor. Obedience is simply evidence of a love relationship that already exists.***

***Communication in the Secret Place becomes the runway for your destiny.***

**[John 15:14]**

You are my friends if you do what I command.

**[Hebrews 10:7]**

Then I said, ‘Look, **I have come to do your will**, O God—  
as is written about me in the Scriptures.’

**[Luke 22:42]**

“...**not my will, but yours be done.**”

***God would rather have your reluctant obedience than your  
immediate yes, marked by inaction.***

## **FOR MONDAY—**

1. Create a place and space of intentional proximity with Jesus.
2. Get out a Bible and a journal and listen for what God would speak to you. Allow God to examine your heart and speak to you.

## **TALK IT THROUGH**

1. Where are some quiet or sacred spaces that help you to think and listen more?
2. In your experience, why is it important for us to quiet many of the other voices that are competing for our attention?
3. How can the Bible serve as a mirror for our lives? What is required for it to be effective and powerful personally and practically? Do you think we study the Bible, or does the Bible study us? Explain. (Consider 1 John 2:1-6)
4. What is your understanding of heaven? What are some things that a redeemed life exhibits?

5. Why is obedience to God's Word truly not a legalistic expectation? Based on Tim Mackie's quote, why is "listening" and "obeying" interchangeable in Hebrew understanding? Today, why do you think "hearing" and "listening" are equated? How does that line up to Biblical understanding in Luke 8.18?
6. How do you walk out the better version of your life? What does the better version look like for you?
7. What are some things you need to press through to get to the feet of Jesus? How does proximity influence your destiny?
8. What does it mean to live your life as Jesus lived, to move forward with God's agenda, not yours?
9. What is the 'one thing' principle Pastor Dave elaborated about? How can we cultivate more intentional proximity on a daily basis?
10. Pray for Jesus to speak to everyone in your circle through those times in the Secret Place.