

John 1

ENGAGE FELLOWSHIP

“And this Living Expression is the Light that bursts through gloom—the Light that darkness could not diminish!” (John 1:5)

MY JOURNAL

Notice that the Light shines in the present tense—not just in the past but now! Certainly it was Christ the Word who became flesh and dwelt among men as Light; but He still today shines as Light in the darkness. We have both a historical Jesus who was with God and became man but this same Jesus is contemporary as Light shining in darkness.

How confusing it must have been for the disciples to grasp the significance of Christ’s words, *“you are the light of the world”* (Matthew 5:14). But as the resurrection and ascension unfolded, the coming of the Holy Spirit ushered in the fulfillment of Christ’s words. No doubt God’s Light is made known through the Son and the Word, but there’s more (John 8:12, Psalm 119:105). His light is to be made manifest through His people! You and I as followers of Jesus have been made partakers of divine light and this light exposes darkness. Sometimes the darkness exposed is in the culture or in those who walk in darkness, and sometimes the darkness is in me!

Sometimes it’s the quiet conviction of His Spirit that exposes in me the darkness of sin and the flesh. At other times it is the Light of Christ in fellow saints that reveals in me the darkness of inconsistencies in my walk with Jesus.

- Prevailing patience in a friend reveals my irritable impatience.
- Courageous witness in a fellow disciple exposes the timidity of my faith.
- A family member’s compassionate engagement with those in need stands in sharp contrast to my cold indifference.

His light made known through others has revealed in me, measures of darkness that need the transforming work of His Spirit.

As a follower who has been exhorted by Jesus to “walk in the light” (John 12:35), it seems important to embrace the light of true fellowship. Rather than avoid the illuminating power of light, let’s invite it!

Pause to pray with a partner or small group.

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you Jesus in the lives of fellow disciples that you might find freedom from sin and self to grow in your Christ-likeness.

“Holy Spirit, challenge me through the Light of Jesus in other disciples that You might perfect in me more and more of His likeness. I’m especially touched by how You make Jesus known through _____ as he/she expresses _____.”

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ENCOUNTER JESUS

“He will be the One I have sent to baptize with the Holy Spirit.” (John 1:33)

MY JOURNAL

John’s wilderness cry was to a baptism of repentance but One greater than he would send forth a different baptism. Ushered in at Pentecost the promise of the Holy Spirit is now available. Followers of Jesus yielding to this baptism will experience rivers of living water as the fruit of the Holy Spirit is made known (John 7:28, Galatians 5:22).

Reflect quietly on the many facets of the Holy Spirit’s fruit: “but the fruit of the Spirit is...”

Pause to yield in a fresh way to the fullness of His Spirit. Listen as the Spirit whispers about a needed deepened work that you might more clearly manifest His fruit. Might you need a fresh work of:

- His love, joy or peace?
- His patience, kindness or goodness?
- His faithfulness, gentleness or self-control?

Listen to His invitation and yield to its promise: “Come unto me and out of your innermost being will flow rivers of living water.”

Ask for the Spirit to empower this deepened work in and through you. Claim the promise of 1 John 5:14-15 “If you ask anything according to His will (confident that you’re expressing the Spirit’s fruit is His will)...He will HEAR... and you will HAVE”!

“Lord Jesus I need a deepened work of _____
(love, joy, peace, patience, etc?) in order that I might more clearly reveal the Spirit’s fruit in my life. Fill and empower me Holy Spirit as I give witness of You.”

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EXPERIENCE SCRIPTURE

“Jesus said... “follow Me.” (John 1:43)

MY JOURNAL

Two simple but profound words can guide my daily walk as Light in a dark world: “Follow me”. Whatever may come my way today, Jesus has gone before me, He has led and I’m to follow!

“WWJD” is my key to following.”

What would Jesus **DO** becomes a guiding principle when uncertainty abounds.

What would Jesus **CHOOSE** guides me away from a broad road of destruction onto the narrow road of life abundant.

What would Jesus **SAY** guides the words of my mouth away from unwholesome words and into words that edify.

What would Jesus **THINK** guides my thoughts away from this world into His Word, which renews my mind.

Clarity and adequacy for daily living is found in the powerful simplicity of two words from the Word: “Follow Me.”

Pause to celebrate with a partner or small group:

“Recently, I sensed an important “following” of Jesus as I faced

and found strength to _____

_____.”

