

WALK IN THE LIGHT

KING | DECEMBER 1, 2024

Luke 2:8-18— *That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased." When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished...*

MAIN POINT

God is moving. Get going.

HOW TO WALK IN THE LIGHT

1. Wake up, God is here.


Philippians 3:20-21—*But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.*

2. Get the lead out and follow His light.

1 Thessalonians 5:7-8—Night is the time when people sleep and drinkers get drunk. But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation.

3. Do what He says with what He gave you.

Galatians 3:26-27—For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes.



Romans 13:11-14—This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living. Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.

God was on the move; God is on the move; and God will always be on the move. Those who walk with God and listen to God are also on the move.

-Scot Mcknight-

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All verses quoted in New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

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STUDY GUIDE: 12/1/24

Begin your group with prayer. Have one or two people share a testimony from their week. Keep it positive and reflect on the good things God has done.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean for believers to “wake up” spiritually? How does understanding that “our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed” impact the way we live?
2. Philippians 3:20-21 speaks about being citizens of heaven. How does this identity challenge us to live differently while we wait for Christ’s return?
3. What are some “spiritual alarms” God might use to wake us up from complacency? Can you share a time when you experienced a wake-up call in your faith?
4. In Romans 13:12, Paul talks about removing dark deeds like dirty clothes. What “old clothes” or habits do you feel God might be asking you to remove?
5. 1 Thessalonians 5:7-8 contrasts the behaviors of the night and day. What does it look like to live as people of the day in a culture that often embraces the darkness?
6. Romans 13:14 challenges us to “clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.” How do we practically “put on” Christ daily in our