

Living Word Fellowship Church Bible Study
December 9, 2025
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The Walk That Proves the Word

Theme: L.I.T. = Light in Truth (The Word/Truth must become a visible Walk/Light)

Text: 1 John 2:3-11

I. Why John Wrote This:

- **Biblical Context:** John wrote this letter to counter false teachers (often called Gnostics) who claimed a special, secret "knowledge" of God (the Truth) but ignored moral commands and denied the true humanity of Jesus. They had the intellectual claim but lacked the ethical fruit.
- **The Tension:** The core conflict is between claiming to know God (intellectual assent) and proving that knowledge through an obedient lifestyle (practical action).
- **Central Theme:** Genuine spiritual light and relationship with God are validated by keeping His commandments—the primary of which is loving one another.
- **The Core Question:** Does our walk (obedience and love) confirm our word (claim to know God)?

II. The Test of Knowing God is _____ (vv. 3-6)

John establishes that the **Truth** we claim to possess must be confirmed by the way we live.

- **The Claim vs. The Reality (v. 4):**
 - John is uncompromising: *"Whoever says, 'I know him' but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him."*
 - **Exegesis:** The Greek word for "liar" (*pseustēs*) is harsh. The problem isn't imperfect obedience, but a **willful, continuous rejection of the command**. If the Truth (sound doctrine) is genuinely in you, it must exert a transformative force.
 - **The Proof of Perfection (v. 5):**
 - When we **"keeps his word,"** the **love of God is perfected** (*teteleōtai*) in us. This means God's love reaches its **intended goal or maturity** through our active adherence to His instructions.
 - **The Standard of the Walk (v. 6):**
 - The highest calling is to **"walk in the same way in which he walked."** Jesus, the **Word made flesh** (John 1:14), provides the only ethical standard for our **Light** (our life).
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III. The Core Commandment is _____(vv. 7-11)

John identifies the specific commandment that most clearly reveals whether a person is walking in the Light.

- **The New Light (v. 8):** The commandment to love is both "old" (foundational in Scripture) and "new" because it is now **true in Christ**—He demonstrated it perfectly. John says, "***the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.***" Our obedience to love is the visible evidence that the Light of Christ is conquering the world's spiritual darkness in our lives.
- **The Fatal Contradiction (v. 9):**
 - "*Whoever says he is **in the light** and **hates his brother** is still in the darkness.*"
 - **Exegesis:** The word for "*hates*" (*misōn*) implies a **continuous attitude** of resentment or hostility. You cannot claim the **Light** while actively practicing its opposite. This is why our loving actions are essential discipleship markers (John 13:35).
- **The Secure Walk (v. 10-11):**
 - **Love** means you **abide in the light** and have "***no cause for stumbling***" (*skandalon*). Love acts as a moral safeguard, keeping you on the illuminated path.
 - **Hate** leads to **darkness**, blinding the eyes and causing spiritual disorientation. The lack of love demonstrates that the **Truth** has not taken root in the heart.

IV. Application and L.I.T. Action

Our L.I.T. theme is fully realized when the _____(the Word) transforms into _____, which then shines as _____(a loving walk).

Discussion Questions:

1. Where is your biggest struggle: knowing the Truth (understanding the command) or walking it out (obeying the command)?
2. Based on verses 9-11, what is one tangible step you can take this week to ensure your love for a specific brother or sister proves that you are "*in the light*"?

Prayer Focus: Living the L.I.T. Life

- **Prayer for Obedient Alignment:** Pray that God exposes any alt and gives us the grace to keep His commandments daily, proving that the Truth has taken root.
- **Prayer for Activated Love:** Pray that we receive the "*new*" command of love with the same selflessness Christ demonstrated, driving out selfishness and resentment.
- **Prayer for Clear Vision:** Ask the Spirit to fill us with practical, active love for our brothers and sisters so that we may abide in the Light and walk without stumbling.