



Walking in His Light

A Devotion on Patriotism

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:5-7).

Reader 1: *This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5).*

Reader 2: God is the light. He is a pure, unblemished and inviting light. In God there is not darkness, no evil, no betrayal, no lies, and no deceit. God's light is warm, refreshing, and comforting to the soul.

Reader 1: *If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth (1 John 1:6).*

Reader 2: As we observe our country's Independence Day we are reminded of the patriots of old who took great pride in service to their country. They respected the authority of their country's leaders. These patriots gave of their time and skills, and many even gave their lives for the country that they loved.

As Christians we are called to have fellowship with God, to walk together with Him in the light. As Christian patriots, our "homeland – the Kingdom of God – claims our allegiance. As patriots we show our love for God by living in relationship with Him. We walk with Him in all we say and do. Daily we renew our fellowship with Him and daily we are cleansed.

Hymn: Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me, *Lutheran Service Book (LSB) 722*

Reader 1: *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7).*

Reader 2: Every day our faith is tested. Are we really walking in the light? Do we have an ongoing relationship with God in our everyday lives? Do we see darkness around us? Through prayer and positive action are we trying to shed the darkness and bring in the light? Are we living as Christian patriots, citizens of a Heavenly Kingdom?

As the American patriots of old defended the country they loved, to the point of sacrificing their livelihoods, families, and even their own lives, so we as Christians are called to make a similar sacrifice. By walking in the light we are called to defend the Gospel – not just stand up for it, but to passionately spread the Good News to our neighbors over the fence and around the world. We know we cannot do this alone. Overcoming the darkness is not our work, but rather it has already been done for us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, our Savior. That’s the message we have to share, a message of hope and healing.

Hymn: Onward Christian Soldiers, *LSB* 662

Reader 1: God is light. In Him there is no darkness. Walk with Him in all you do as a citizen of heaven. If we are truly walking in the light, we will know the difference between the darkness and light. With the help and guidance of Jesus, our Savior, we will overcome the darkness and live in the light.

Reader 2: Heavenly Father, our God, help us to be patriots of the Kingdom of Heaven. Give us the strength and wisdom to walk in Your light daily and spread Your Word to all who do not know You. Shield us when in danger and protect us from all harm. Build up our faith and make us true citizens of Your kingdom on earth as well as in heaven. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Scripture references are from the ESV.

Written by: Brenda Isaac, Claremont, NC
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