**The Light of Truth and Love**

**Introduction**

1. Those in the world often disparage God’s will as unloving, and tout actions and activities which are against His will as greater ways of love.
2. The Bible makes it clear that the light of truth which is God’s will is also the light of love – that God’s word directs true love, and true love cannot be known outside of His word.
3. Jesus gives the ultimate displays of these truths in His life, where the light of the truth of God’s will and the light of love converges.
4. The Light of Truth
5. Jesus’ Determination to do His Father’s Will
	1. The sickness and death of Lazarus was for the display of God’s glory – **John 11:3-4, 14-15**
		1. **John 1:14; 2:11** – miracles for the manifestation of the glory of God in the face of Christ.
	2. Hostility had already reached a life-threatening level in Judea for Jesus, and His disciples discouraged Him from going there – **John 11:7-8**
	3. Jesus demonstrated His determination to go despite the danger – **John 11:9-10**
		1. Typically, **verse 9** is suggested to be a demonstration of the prior notations of Jesus and the author John – **John 7:6; 8:20** – especially the latter, concerning the time of His death.
			1. I.e. though danger lies in Judea, they need not worry because nothing can be done to Him until it is time. (stumble = be hurt/killed)
			2. **(v. 10)** – this becomes curious if the idea is limited to that point.
		2. **John 9:3-5** – Jesus made a similar previous statement concerning His obligation to do His Father’s will – He is not here to hide, but to manifest.
		3. If the light of day in **verse 9** is the Father’s will, coupled with the confidence that the threat would not culminate in death because it was not time, then what is the darkness of night that would cause stumbling in **verse 10**?
			1. The stumbling cannot simply refer to physical harm coming to Jesus and His disciples.
			2. **(v. 10)** – if the darkness is staying, i.e. not working while it is day, then the ***“stumbles”*** is not the same as **verse 9** that is considered to be physical harm befalling Him.
		4. Jesus’ point is that if He remains because of the threat, He would be stumbling spiritually by neglecting His Father’s will – **John 12:27-28** (**cf. Matthew 26:39**) – He places His reservations aside and only does God’s will.
		5. *Paraphrase – If I walk within the day of opportunity to do My Father’s will, I will be walking in the light of truth rather than stumbling in the darkness of negligence and disobedience. Those who venture off from God’s will for any reason (like the threat in Judea) inevitably stumble spiritually because they aren’t walking in the Father’s will.*
			1. **cf. 1 Peter 3:13-17** – The point is not that God will protect us from harm, but that we will be preserved spiritually.
			2. To avoid harm by avoiding God’s will is to do yourself harm (stumble) spiritually – **cf. Matthew 10:32-33**
6. Jesus’ Exhortation for Others
	1. Jesus’ use of the third person perspective makes the application relevant for people beyond Himself – **John 11:9-10**
	2. We’re all given the revelation of God’s will to walk in, but if we reject it and walk in the darkness we will sin – **Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 6:20-29**
		1. The command and law of the parents represent God’s law and are meant to expose the darkness of sin that we may avoid the destruction it brings – sexual sin in context.
	3. Rejection of God’s will leaves us without reliable guidance, and results in destruction – **Jeremiah 6:16-20; 10:23; Proverbs 14:12**
	4. **Jesus gives a similar warning in relation to the fact that He is the light – John 12:35-36 – rejection of Him led to spiritual stumbling in crucifying God’s Son, and Anointed.**
		1. **(v. 35) – does not know where he is going.**
		2. **When the light of truth/God’s will is rejected, there is no sense of spiritual direction – one will walk right into the ditch of sin. (cf. Matthew 15:14)**
7. The Light of Love
8. Part of Walking in the Light is Walking in Love
	1. **1 John 2:7-8** – John mentions an old commandment and a new commandment.
		1. **(v. 8)** – it is true in them because they are no longer walking in darkness.
		2. ***“true in Him…the true light is already shining”*** – **1 John 1:5, 7** – the message Jesus declared is God is light – they are walking with Him in the light, imitating Him **(2:6).**
	2. **1 John 2:9-10** – the old and new commandment John alluded to is identified – not hate, but love.
		1. Hate = darkness; Love = light
		2. ***“and there is no cause for stumbling in him”*** – because ***“Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.” (Romans 13:10)***.
	3. **1 John 2:11** – hatred places one in darkness where he loses all spiritual bearing, and cannot know where he is going – spiritual destruction is inevitable – **cf. John 11:10** ***(“stumbles”)***
		1. The ***“cause for stumbling”*** that is in him is an indifference toward his brother, or even the desire for harm to befall him.
		2. So he will not walk with the light of truth that seeks the good of a brother – **Romans 13:8, 10**
9. Walking in Love is Walking in the Light because it Keeps God’s Commandments
	1. Jesus is to be imitated to walk in the light – **1 John 2:6**
	2. Jesus is the standard of love – **1 John 3:16-17; 4:7-11**
		1. **3:16-17** – sacrifice, giving of ourselves to the needs of others.
		2. **4:9** – love shown to us in the life of Christ – ***“made manifest among us” (ESV)***
		3. **4:10-11** – love is shown to us in God’s giving of His Son, and we are to love each other in this way.
	3. The commandments (light, will) of God direct our love – **1 John 5:1-2**
		1. Thus, to walk in love is to walk in the light of truth.
	4. **John 12:25; 1 John 2:11** – rejecting the light of God’s will (Christ) and choosing to hate both destroy our sense of spiritual direction – we cannot make proper decisions, and will stumble.
10. The Light of Truth and Love
11. Jesus’ determination to go to Judea to raise Lazarus is an example of the convergence of the light of truth and love.
12. Jesus was determined to walk in the light of His Father’s will, not stumble in the darkness of avoiding it – **John 11:9-10** – this also involved walking in love toward others.
	1. Jesus loved Lazarus, yet stayed when He heard of his sickness – **John 11:3-6**
	2. Jesus was glad for the sake of His disciples that Lazarus died – **John 11:14-15**
13. Jesus’ resolve to do His Father’s will by manifesting His glory **(v. 4**) was a resolve to love everyone in the way that served their greatest needs:
	1. The disciples – **John 11:14-15** – that they may believe.
	2. Mary and Martha **– John 11:23-27** – that they may believe.
	3. All who would witness it and hear of it – **John 11:41-45** – that they may believe.
	4. All who would read this account – **John 20:31-32** – that we may believe.
14. This is just another example of how the light of truth is the light of love – **Matthew 22:37-40** – i.e. walking in God’s will is always the way of love, and the way of love is only by walking in the light of God’s will.

**Conclusion**

1. We must not avoid doing God’s will at any moment because we will be operating in the dark, and we will stumble spiritually.
2. God’s will directs us in love toward each other, but when love fails we walk in the darkness and will stumble spiritually.
3. When we walk in the light of God’s will we operate in the light of love, and what we do will be in the best interest of those we interact with.