

In Him Is No Darkness At All

Prepared by
Elder Dwight Burford
www.hisworkmanship.net
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“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” I John 1:3-7

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. This past Wednesday (August 3, 1994) the Lord very sternly impressed upon me that **in Zion there will be no “confidences,”** saying “Your confidences have hindered you,” meaning the church as a whole. We must begin now to prepare ourselves to live perfectly in the light of truth so that we may abide in Zion with the pure in heart. This is a word of faith. I am confessing it now in writing by the power and authority of the Spirit of truth. What does this word of faith mean exactly? The following notes summarize the enlightenment I received of the Spirit as I prayed and fasted concerning this instruction.

Foremost, we have fellowship with each other only if we walk in the light of Christ’s Spirit. Those who share in confidences (secret trusts of confidentiality) are walking in darkness, not having the faith to walk in the light. I know that this is a hard saying since for years those who have kept confidences among the priesthood were considered faithful and trustworthy among the people. But I understood from the impress of the Spirit of Christ that this is not the way

God views it (Isaiah 55:6-13 comes to mind in retrospect).

Ministers of Jesus Christ are to teach everyone to repent openly by confessing and forsaking their sins, all sins. The scriptures are replete with such instruction and I am given assurance of the Spirit of truth that I do not need to review the instructions He has given through scripture concerning confession and repentance with you at this time. They are plainly and clearly written. What I am impressed to write about is the entering into secret confidences. And I write according to the sternness of the Spirit of truth, “according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction” (II Corinthians 13:10).

“Hearken, O ye people of my church, saith the voice of him who dwells on high, and whose eyes are upon all men; yea, verily I say, Hearken ye people from afar, and ye that are upon the islands of the sea, listen together; for verily the voice of the Lord is unto all men, and there is none to escape, and there is no eye that shall not see, neither ear that shall not

hear, neither heart that shall not be penetrated; and the rebellious shall be pierced with much sorrow, for their iniquities shall be spoken upon the housetops, and their secret acts shall be revealed; and the voice of warning shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my disciples, whom I have chosen in these last days, and they shall go forth and none shall stay them, for I the Lord have commanded them.” D&C 1:1

When any of us enter into a confidence we take upon ourselves the unresolved sin so covered up by the confidence. This is the uncompromising word of God, and by faith I so write it. We are not commanded to enter into the secret trust of others nor have others been commanded to enter into our secret trust. Rather we are to preach and teach all to come out of darkness and into the light, and to forsake the secrets that separate one person from another in Christ. We may talk privately, and respect the privacy of others, but we must be forever prepared, as God directs, to give an account openly and in the light for all we say and do.

Everything will be made manifest in the day of our Lord, especially all things which have been done in secret (II Nephi 12:97). As described in scripture, it will be a day of burning, for at that day we shall all know as we are known. The rebellious will be pierced with much sorrow because they resisted the call to repent. Their secret acts will be revealed, because they do not have a covering for their sins:

“Woe to the rebellious children, saith the Lord, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my Spirit, that they may add sin to sin.” Isaiah 30:1

But, those who heed the call to repent and come to the Light will not be ashamed at that great day, having obtained a covering for their sins through the mercy of the Lamb (John 3:16-22 with I John 4:17).

“...Blessed are they through faith whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.” Romans 4:7

We must be very careful what agreements we enter into with others. Jesus Christ taught plainly by word and example that we are to commit ourselves only to God and to live in plain honesty and uprightness before Him:

“Again, it hath been written by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths. But I say unto you, swear not at all...But let your communication be Yea, yea; Nay, nay; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.” Matthew 5:37-39

“But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all things, and needed not that any should testify of man; for he knew what was in man.” John 2:24-25

James has also written plainly of these things, and we are admonished to observe the counsel which he has provided the church (James 4:11-17).

The Spirit affirms that those who walk in the light do so by the wisdom of God. The righteous speak with discretion (Psalm 112:5, Proverbs 2:11, Isaiah 28:26), not spouting out all manner of conversation. But they never compromise their commitment to the fellowship of the Light by allowing themselves to be bound to secret trusts of confidentiality. Again, we can talk privately, and we should respect the privacy of others, but we must never enter into a stated or assumed agreement about relationships or activities which are not condoned in scripture.

In this regard, the Lord impressed very firmly upon me that many are they who have entered into confidences which have effectively bound them to commitments with which the Lord is not well pleased. They have committed them-

selves to that which is counter to the wisdom and instruction of the Spirit and thus they have become ineffectual, feeling obliged to keep their own word when the Spirit would counsel otherwise.

The following scripture was impressed upon me as being directly linked to this subject. Yet, I must admit that before last Wednesday I had not viewed it as being so related to the affairs of the church:

“O the wisdom of God! his mercy and grace! For behold, if the flesh should rise no more, our spirits must become subject to that angel who fell from before the presence of the eternal God, and became the devil, to rise no more. And our spirits must have become like unto him, and we become devils, angels to a devil, to be shut out from the presence of our God, and to remain with the father of lies, in misery, like unto himself; yea, to that being who beguiled our first parents; **who transformeth himself nigh unto an angel of light, and stirreth up the children of men unto secret combinations of murder, and all manner of secret works of darkness.**” II Nephi 6:19-21

Even though entering into a confidence with someone appears innocent enough, there are confidences held between some which are in fact secret combinations of murder in God’s eyes. Why? If anyone hates another, they are murderers in His eyes:

“Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer; and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.” I John 3:15

We are called to be the children of light, to love each other as Christ loved us. But the Spirit of the Lord testifies that those who have been called to enter into the fellowship of the body have hindered His labor of love in bringing all into the fellowship of light by entering into con-

fidences with each other. The witness of the Spirit of Christ is that this has grieved Him sorely.

What should be done? The words of the apostle Paul provide the necessary counsel:

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice; and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:29-32

Again, the Lord testifies that when we minister for Him we are to be extremely careful not to enter into darkness by entering into private trusts with those who are unwilling to forsake their sins (Galatians 6:1). Otherwise we bring the same sin upon ourselves. We are simply to teach others to place their confidence in Jesus Christ through obedience to the gospel, i.e. to repent of and forsake their sins for the knowledge of the Truth (II Timothy 2:24-26).

“And there were many holy men in the land; and they did speak the word of God, with power and with authority; and they did use much sharpness because of the stiff-neckedness of the people.” Words of Mormon 1:26

Often, this is the only way that the hope which makes not ashamed can be imparted (Romans 5:1-5). Confidences provide a temporary stay of urgency to resolve sin. Therefore, we must point all to Christ, for cursed are they who trust in man (Jeremiah 17:5):

“Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide; keep the doors of thy mouth

from her that lieth in thy bosom. For the son dishonoreth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house. Therefore I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me. Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy; when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me. I will bear the indignation of the Lord, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me; he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness." Micah 7:5-9

The call of Jesus Christ to us still is to take up our cross, deny ourselves, and follow Him. All who suffer humiliation for Christ's sake before the world have an eternal reward in His presence. But those who will not suffer the shame of the cross and confess openly their sins are they who refuse to exercise confidence in the assurance of the Comforter, i.e. they are they who refuse to exercise faith (Hebrews 11:1-6).

Our Savior has called us to teach everyone to walk in the light, i.e. live according to every word of God. For only by "walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost" as the early church did can the church today expect to flourish (Acts 9:31). Those who enter into confidences with those to whom they have been called to declare repentance greatly hinder the work of the church. The Spirit bears record of it. And so we may very well prevent the remission of sins by not being open and bringing sin to light. Again, the Lord bears record, "Your confidences have hindered you."

"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth; **so is every one who is born of the Spirit.**" John 3:8

But the Spirit testifies that there are those who are bound by their confidences that they cannot go as they are led. And so the Spirit is grieved. Remember, "the word of God is not bound" (II Timothy 2:9).

Those who refuse to enter into the light are they who already have their reward in condemnation (John 3:18-21). But those who come forth in the hope which "makes not ashamed" to live in the light are they who receive a remission of their sins unto the salvation of their souls.

Are we then to be insensitive to the feelings of others? No. Nor, on the other hand, must we be compromising. We simply must be forever prepared to give an account of everything we say or do and not procrastinate the day of repentance for ourselves or others. And again I write by faith, that many are they who have helped others procrastinate the day of their repentance by entering into private confidences with them. Such agreements are wrong because they effectively shield the unrepentant from the light and can eventually lead to their ruin.

"Thou meetest him that worketh righteousness, and rejoiceth him that remembereth thee in thy ways; *in righteousness there is continuance, and such shall be saved.*" Isaiah 64:5

We must come into the light if we are to continue. For thus the Lord has spoken it. There is no other way to prosper in the work than to walk in the light. For in our Father there is no darkness. We must bring all things to the Light. If a particular matter is private, it should be dealt with privately, but it must be dealt with in the spirit of repentance and be confessed as the Lord directs.

As ministers for Christ we must not take an oath of privacy or feel any obligation to enter into one. For so Satan works among the brethren, teaching that they are doing some good thing by entering such practices. They are not. Unless

we admonish those to whom we are called to minister to come into the light, we ourselves will suffer at the day of our Lord's coming in glory.

Our concern for privacy must be overridden by our hope for the remission of our sins and for true fellowship in the light. This does not mean that I or someone else is to be put on open display before the body. It simply means, that Christ is sufficient for all sinners and that no matter how others may view me, I must care more about how Jesus Christ views me.

Until we come to walk in the fullness of light and teach others to do so, we will not be entirely free of the bondage of sin. We can best serve others by walking ourselves in the light of Jesus Christ. To do so we must be careful what we commit ourselves to. In the presence of Truth, all things are made manifest.

“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight; but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.” Hebrews 4:13

And so it will be in our Lord's Zion.

Those prone to walk in the excesses of confidences are walking in darkness and are to be reprov'd. For why else would anyone enter into confidences except that they are not prepared to walk in the light of truth with those around them? Simply put, they are demonstrating a lack of desire or commitment to walk in the light. Said in another way, those who are reticent to walk in the light are prone to keep many confidences.

We are not to rely upon our own wisdom in these matters. For if we do, our Lord will not open unto us and we will be quickly overcome.

“And there is none other way, save it be by the gate, for he can not be deceived; for the Lord

God is his name. And whoso knocketh, to him, will he open; **and the wise, and the learned, and they that are rich, who are puffed up because of their learning, and their wisdom, and their riches; yea, they are they, whom he despiseth; and save they shall cast these things away, and consider themselves fools before God, and come down in the depths of humility, he will not open unto them.**” II Nephi 6:82-84

Those who abide in confidences promote a dependence upon that which cannot save. Therefore, the Lord calls us to come into the light. Otherwise we cannot enter into the fellowship of the saints of God. And thus I have been instructed to write. Amen.

“O, my beloved brethren, turn away from your sins; shake off the chains of him that would bind you fast; come unto that God who is the rock of your salvation. Prepare your souls for that glorious day, when justice shall be administered unto the righteous; even the day of judgment, that ye may not shrink with awful fear; that ye may not remember your awful guilt in perfectness, and be constrained to exclaim, Holy, holy are thy judgments, O Lord God Almighty. But I know my guilt; I transgressed thy law, and my transgressions are mine; and the devil hath obtained me, that I am a prey to his awful misery. But behold, my brethren, is it expedient that I should awake you to an awful reality of these things? Would I harrow up your souls, if your minds were pure? Would I be plain unto you according to the plainness of the truth, if ye were freed from sin? Behold, if ye were holy, I would speak unto you of holiness; but as ye are not holy, and ye look upon me as a teacher, it must needs be expedient that I teach you the consequences of sin. Behold, my soul abhorreth sin, and my heart delighteth in righteousness; and I will praise the holy name of my God. Come, my brethren, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters; and he

that hath no money, come buy and eat; yea, come buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore, do not spend money for that which is of no worth, nor your labor for that which can not satisfy. Hearken diligently unto me, and remember the words which I have spoken; and come unto the Holy One of Israel, and feast upon that which perisheth not, neither can be corrupted, and let your soul delight in fatness. Behold, my beloved brethren, remember the words of your God; pray unto him continually by day, and give thanks unto his holy name by night. Let your hearts rejoice, and behold how great the covenants of the Lord, and how great his condescensions unto the children of men..."

II Nephi 6:89-104

Let us abandon our fears and turn to the living God who is an ever present help in time of need. His mercies will sustain those who are broken and He will give them strength. Trust in the Lord for your all and He will sustain you. Doubt not, but be believing, and He will rise up in your defense this day and forever. Bless the Most High God, for He has declared it. Unto Him be all praise and honor and glory now and forevermore. Amen.

"Yea, blessed are the poor in spirit, who come unto me; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. And again, blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted. And blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth. And blessed are all they that do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled with the Holy Ghost. And blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy. And blessed are all the pure in heart; for they shall see God. And blessed are all the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are all they that are persecuted for my name's sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:5-12