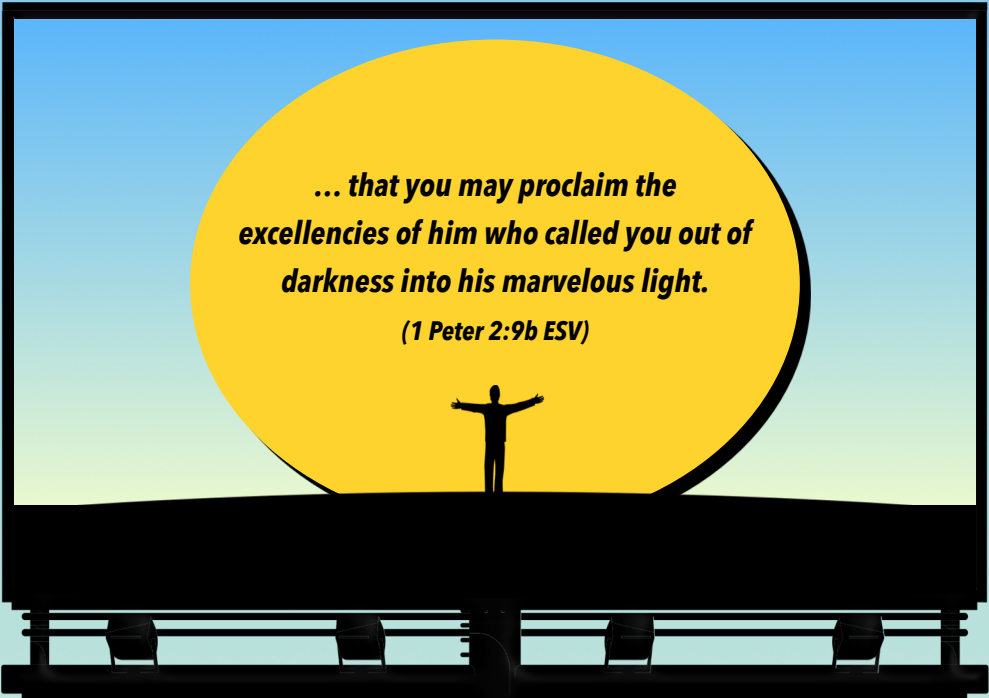


CALLED OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT

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 ESV)



... that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

(1 Peter 2:9b ESV)

But whoever does what is true comes to the light ...

(John 3:21a ESV)

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son ...

(Colossians 1:13 ESV)

THE PEOPLE OF GOD HAVE BEEN CALLED OUT OF DARKNESS INTO GOD'S MARVELOUS LIGHT

The people of God have been called out of the darkness into God's marvelous light. How can I know that I am one of the people of God? How can I know that I have been called out of the darkness? How can I have the assurance that I am one of the people of God?

- (1 Peter 2:9–10 ESV) But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1. GOD GIVES US VERY DETAILED INFORMATION. THE PEOPLE OF GOD ARE THE PEOPLE GOD HAS MADE US TO BE.

- A. Know what God says:** To have the assurance that we have been called out of darkness into God's light, we must know what God says. *God defines the terms.*

We must know and accept terms of the kingdom of light and the terms for identifying those who are citizens of the kingdom as God puts them forth in his word.

SO WHAT ARE THE TERMS?

- B. Believe God:** The honor of being part of God's kingdom is for those who believe God; for those who believe his word and receive Jesus Christ as the cornerstone of their faith.
- (1 Peter 2:7–8 ESV) So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," 8 and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.
- C. Walk in the light:** Here are a few indicators that the Spirit will use to assure us that we are walking in obedience to Christ and walking in the light.

HOW DO WE KNOW IF WE ARE WALKING IN THE LIGHT?

- i. If we are walking in the light, we will be following Christ.**

- (John 8:12 ESV) Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

- ii. If we are following Christ, then we are being led by the Spirit, and the Spirit will teach us the truth of our identity.**

- (Romans 8:14–16 ESV) For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

- iii. If we are walking in the light, then we will be following Jesus, led by the Spirit, and this hope will purify our lives.**

- (1 John 3:1–3 ESV) See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

2. THE PEOPLE OF GOD ARE GOD'S PEOPLE WHO PRAISE GOD.

To have assurance that we have been called out of darkness into God's light, we must have

How can I know that I have been called out of the darkness ... that I live in the light ... How can I know?

observable, joyful, exultant praise to God for bringing us out of the darkness and into the light. Fulfilling God's purpose validates and testifies to our genuine faith ... that we have been called out of darkness.

- (1 Peter 2:9 ESV) But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, **that you** may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

THE PURPOSE OF GOD

3. The people of God do not live in the darkness but live in God's marvelous light.

To have assurance that we have been called out of darkness into God's light our lives must exhibit observable, clear, biblical evidence that we do not live in the darkness. The observable, clear, biblical evidence that we do not live in the darkness is mostly that we walk in the light.

A. **Obedience:** Obeying God's commandment to love our brother/sister in Christ is powerful evidence that we live in the light.

- (1 John 2:8–11 ESV) At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. 9 Whoever says he is in the light and **hates** his brother is **still in darkness**. 10 Whoever **loves** his brother abides **in the light**, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. 11 But whoever **hates** his brother is **in the darkness and walks in the darkness**, and **does not know where he is going**, because **the darkness has blinded his eyes**.

B. **Fellowship:** Fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ is powerful evidence that we walk in the light.

- (1 John 1:5–7 ESV) 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. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 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.

C. **Obedience:** Obeying the truth that God gives us in the Bible is powerful evidence that we come to the light.

- (John 3:19–21 ESV) And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. 21 But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.

D. **Obedience:** Walking in the light—obeying God's word, loving our brothers and sisters in Christ—is powerful evidence that we are following Jesus and have the light of life.

- (John 8:12 ESV) Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. **Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness**, but will have the light of life."

E. **Judgment:** Living properly in view of the coming judgment of God ("the daytime") is powerful evidence that we walk in the light.

- (Romans 13:12–14 ESV) The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

CONCLUSION: This is all about God's mercy.

To have assurance that we have been called out of darkness into God's light we know without a doubt that our salvation and calling are solely because of mercy received from God.

- (1 Peter 2:10 ESV) Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

DOES NOT KNOW WHERE HE IS GOING ...



STILL IN THE DARKNESS ...

WALKS IN THE DARKNESS ...

THE DARKNESS HAS BLINDED HIS EYES ...