**Lessons from a Lockdown**

**Volume II**

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**Day 85**

**2 John 1:4-6**

It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us. And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

***Questions for Personal Reflection:***

1. What does walking in the truth mean?

2. What role does the truth play in my life?

3. What do I feel when I see Christians walking in the truth?

4. Would my daily conduct be described as walking in the truth?

5. What is more difficult for me: to walk in the truth or to walk in love? Why?

***Insight:***

Walking in the truth may mean living our lives according to the Word of God. This means that we are living each day following what the Bible teaches. To do this, we need to keep reminding ourselves of what the Bible teaches. We need to constantly read and meditate on how the Word of God applies in our lives. We need to seek guidance from the Word on decisions that we make. We must follow the path the Word of God tells us to take.

Walking in the truth may also mean living honestly and not hiding our true selves. So in this way walking in the truth would be similar to walking in the light. This means we do not try to appear to be someone we are not. There is no difference between our internal and external selves. Who we are online is also who we are in person. We don't lie or try to deceive people. We don't misrepresent the truth. This also means we don't hold back telling the truth to people. If what they are doing is wrong, we tell them, speaking the truth in love.

It gave John great joy to see people walking in the truth. In the same way, it should give us great joy, when we see or hear about Christians doing the right thing. This is true whether these are Christians we personally know or Christians we just know about. We should not take the practice of righteousness for granted because it is difficult and not commonly seen in the world. We should lift up our brothers and sisters for walking in the truth each time we have the opportunity. Also, we need to remember that if we walk in the truth we also give joy and inspiration to others.

Walking in the truth is something that God expects from us and not just "something extra" that we do. Our "walk" is our way of life. It is shown by our daily conduct.

John repeats the command to love one another. Sometimes we can get irritated when something is said to us over and over again. We don't like being nagged. But sometimes there are things so important that they have to be repeatedly stated. Loving one another is a command so important that we have to always be reminded.

John says that love is obedience to God's commands. He seems to be being circular in his logic here. If walking in the truth is walking in accordance with God's commands, how is walking in love be different if love is obedience to God's commands? Perhaps this can be understood by accepting that obedience to God is an all or nothing thing. We cannot pick and choose which of God's commands to follow and which commands to neglect. If choose to follow the command to walk in the truth, we must also walk in love. We can't really follow one completely without following the other.

If love is obedience to God's commands, then love requires that we know God's commands. Love for God should make us study God's word. Some might say that they don't really like reading books. But if you love someone wouldn't you do even what is uncomfortable for you to do, if that is what it takes to show that you love them? You can't really say that you love God if you don't love studying the Bible.

Love cannot simply be emotions without action or the fulfillment of an obligation. Neither can the fulfillment of our obligation to God be devoid of emotions. As one commentary stated, "Love divorced from duty will run riot, and duty divorced from love will starve."

Let us walk in the truth and walk in love.