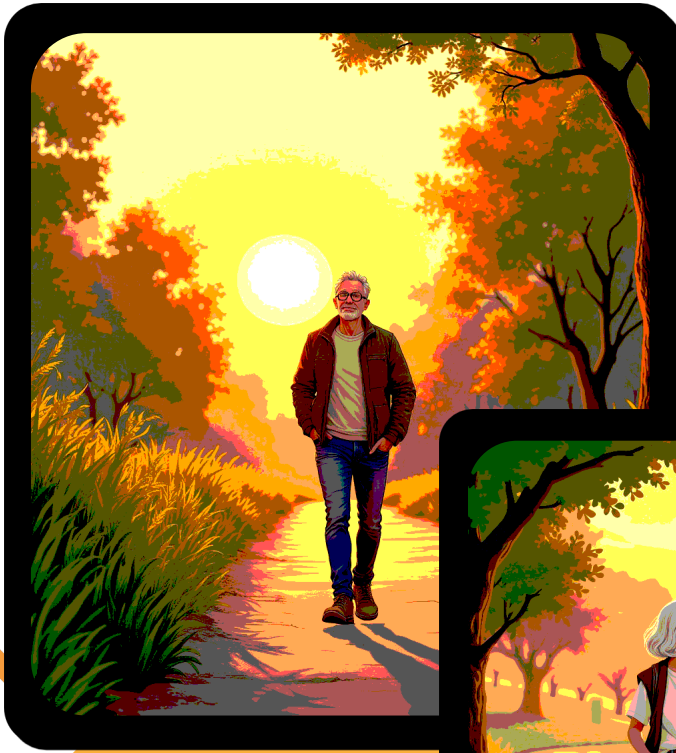


THE DAYLIGHT PRINCIPLE



- **The Daylight Principle:** If we walk in the daylight, we will not stumble through life but will make the most of our time on earth and bring glory to our God.



- **Principle:** A fundamental truth or proposition that serves as the foundation for a system of belief; a basic idea or rule that explains or controls how something happens or works.

IN BETHANY ACROSS THE JORDAN ...

1. Jesus leaves the scene of his latest battle with the Jews, 10:39.

- (John 10:39 ESV) **Again they sought to arrest him**, but he escaped from their hands.

2. He returned to where his public ministry had begun, 10:40.

- (John 10:40 ESV) **He went away again across the Jordan** to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there he remained.
- (John 1:28 ESV) These things took place in **Bethany across the Jordan**, where John was baptizing.

In spite of all the hatred directed toward him, Jesus still had lost sheep to find and save. The many here who came to him seem to have genuinely believed.

3. Many came to him and many believed, 10:41-42.

- (John 10:41-42 ESV) **And many came to him**. And they said, “John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true.” 42 **And many believed in him there**.
- (John 6:37 ESV) All that the Father gives me **will come to me**, and **whoever comes to me** I will never cast out.
- (John 6:44 ESV) **No one can come to me** unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

Jesus will search for his sheep and rescue them from where they have been scattered. He will be the shepherd of his sheep and set everything right.

- (Luke 19:10 ESV) **For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost**.
- (Ezekiel 34:11-12 ESV) For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, **I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out**. 12 As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, **so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered** on a day of clouds and thick darkness.
- (Ezekiel 34:15-16 ESV) **I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep**, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. 16 **I will seek the lost**, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, **and the fat and the strong I will destroy**. I will feed them in justice.

IN BETHANY NEAR JERUSALEM ...

4. Jesus was notified by Mary and Martha that Lazarus was ill, 11:1-3.

- (John 11:1-3 ESV) Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. 3 **So the sisters sent to him**, saying, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.”

Jesus had a close relationship with Mary, Martha and Lazarus, so when Lazarus became sick the sisters sent for Jesus. Lazarus was likely dead by the time Jesus was given the news since by the time he arrived Lazarus had been dead for four days. (See John 11:39.)

5. Jesus announced that the greater purpose in Lazarus' illness was the glory of God, 11:4-7.

- (John 11:4-7 ESV) But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness does not lead to death. **It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it**.” 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, **he stayed two days longer in the place where he was**. 7 Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.”

A. This is a lesson on faith and the glory of God.

B. The illness/death of Lazarus was not the main storyline in this account.

C. Jesus stayed two more days after being told that Lazarus was sick during which he would continue to redeem the time and do the works of his Father.

D. After the two days Jesus announced they were going to Judea.

6. Jesus introduces his disciples to the important concept of walking in the daylight, 11:8-10.

- (John 11:8-10 ESV) The disciples said to him, “**Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?**” 9 Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? **If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble**, because he sees the light of this world. 10 **But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles**, because the light is not in him.”

The disciples were concerned (*fearful*) about the potential danger for Jesus in going back to Judea.



THE DAYLIGHT PRINCIPLE ...

- A. We need to make our decisions in the time we have on earth based on the daylight principle.
- B. The daylight principle—walk in the light and will not stumble because we see the world for what it is.
 - i. If we walk in the day, we make decisions based on our trust in God and his word.
 - ii. We do not make decisions based on the fear of what might happen.
 - iii. We make good decisions because we make them in the context of God and eternity.
 - iv. We do not stumble because we see the reality of our lives and this world as revealed to us by God.
 - v. If we walk in the night, we will stumble and make bad decisions because we have no light/truth/reality on which to base those decisions.

7. What does it mean to walk in the daylight?

- A. To walk in the daylight is to walk in the light.

The word “day” in 1:9 means daylight and is used literally and metaphorically. Here it means that the person who walks in the day walks in the truth of God.

- B. We come to the light and walk in the light when we do the truth.

- (John 3:21a ESV) But whoever does what is true comes to the light.

So the person who walks in the daylight lives the truth and in living the truth he does not stumble because he lives in view of the reality of God and his kingdom of righteousness.

- C. Walking in the daylight has to do with the **duration** and **direction** of our time on earth—we have a predetermined number of days; we need to be doing what we should be doing during this time.

- (James 4:14–16 NLT) How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it’s here a little while, then it’s gone. 15 What you ought to say is, “If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that.” 16 Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil.

- D. The person who walks in the day “works the works” of God over the entirety of his or her life.

- (John 9:4 ESV) We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.

- E. Following Jesus is walking in the light which means not walking in darkness.

- (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.”

8. The person who walks in the light views the number of his days on earth as a stewardship determined by God.

- A. To have a heart of wisdom we must be mindful that our days are numbered.

- (Psalm 90:12 ESV) So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

- B. God determined our days before we were born and wrote them in his book.

- (Psalm 139:16b NIV) ... all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

- C. This person is caught up in reverence and wonder at the magnitude of God’s thoughts and plans for him.

- (Psalm 139:17–18 ESV) How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! 18 If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.
- (Psalm 40:5 NIV) Many, LORD my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare.

- D. The person who walks in the light is awed as she discovers the depths of her relationship with God.

9. The person who walks in the light consciously lives in view of the glory of God.

- A. When the person who walks in the light presents his body and his mind to God, he sets the course of his life away from the norms of this world.

- (Galatians 5:16b ESV) ... walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.
- (Romans 12:1–2 ESV) I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- i. Presenting ourselves to God in this way is a holy and acceptable act of worship to God.
- ii. In doing this we successfully turn from the world's ways and are transformed in our thinking to the ways of God.
- iii. With our renewed minds we are now able to value and test how genuine and worthy are the ways of God and know by experience how good and acceptable and perfect is his will.

B. The person who walks in the daylight is intent on making the best use of his time on earth and is intent on understanding the will of the Lord.

- i. He is vigilant and careful to live wisely and not as a fool who has no interest in the will of God.
 - (Ephesians 5:15–17 ESV) Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 **making the best use of the time**, because the days are evil. 17 **Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.**

- ii. He walks in the daylight as a child of light and refuses to be deceived by or become partners with those who belong to the darkness.

- (Ephesians 5:6–11 ESV) **Let no one deceive you with empty words**, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 **Therefore do not become partners with them**; 8 for at one time you were darkness, **but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light** 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), 10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 **Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.**

- iii. He practices and lives by the simple instructions for doing the will of God.

- (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 ESV) **Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**

C. The person who walks in the daylight joyfully anticipates the Spirit of God using the word of God to equip him to do the work of God.

- (2 Timothy 3:16–17 ESV) All Scripture is

breathed out by God **and profitable for teaching**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, and for **training in righteousness**, 17 **that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**

- (2 Timothy 4:2 ESV) Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; **reprove, rebuke, and exhort**, with complete patience and teaching.

D. The person who walks in the daylight treasures doing the work that God has planned for him.

- i. Jesus is our example in doing the will of God and the work of God.

- (John 4:34 ESV) Jesus said to them, “My food is **to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.**”
- (John 17:4 ESV) I glorified you on earth, **having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.**

- ii. We were created in Christ Jesus to do good works specifically crafted for us to do.

- (Ephesians 2:10 ESV) For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**

10. Jesus announces his plan and purpose for going to Bethany, 11:11-16.

- (John 11:11–16 ESV) After saying these things, he said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.” 12 The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.” 13 **Now Jesus had spoken of his death**, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. 14 **Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died,** 15 and for your sake **I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe.** But let us go to him.” 16 So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, **“Let us also go, that we may die with him.”**

A. Jesus reveals that God's purpose in Lazarus' death was for their sake—to grow their faith.

B. It is time to put the daylight principle into action.

C. Though Thomas needs to grow in faith and perspective he shows great love and faith.

D. But according to daylight time it was not time to die.