

Welcome: We would like to welcome you here today for our worship service with our focus on following Jesus with our theme today “The Lord brings restoration as we turn from our sin and turn toward Him.” Matthew 4:12-23. Our series is called “Love Producing Obedience.”

Sermon Outline

1. What does it mean in a spiritual sense to sit in darkness or to be walking in darkness?

2. Psalm 119:105 – Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.
3. John 8:12 *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* What does this verse mean?

4. From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near. Matthew 4:17 Why is repentance so important?

5. If I am going to escape spiritual darkness I must repent...turn from my sins and turn toward God...turn toward the light. When we turn toward the light is when we are restored...restoration. Remember the Lord always wants to bring restoration. How has the Lord brought restoration in your life?

6. Once we have turned toward the Lord and repented the Lord calls us to the next step in our journey as He directs our path. *Jesus says in Matthew 4:19 Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men.* Why does the Lord want us to take the next step to follow Him?

7. How do I receive the strength to follow when I am weak and sin every day? *2 Cor. 12:9-10 says, "But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."*

8. **Sermon Meditation...what is the Lord telling you in the message today and what are you going to do about it?** Hebrews 4:14-18 *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-- yet was without sin. 16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*
