

You are the
Light of the world

Let you light
shine

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Forward

We cannot make yourself the light of the world. Jesus says you are the light of the world because of your relationship with him. “The God who said, ‘Out of darkness the light shall shine!’ is the same God who made his light shine in our hearts, to bring us the knowledge of God's glory shining in the face of Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6).

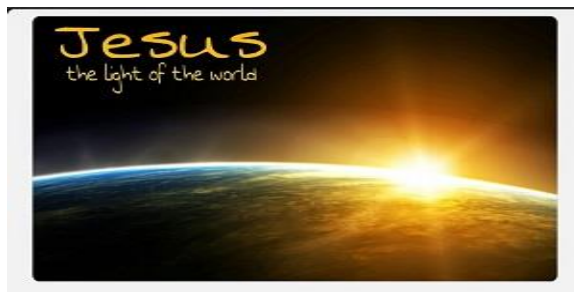
The Lord speaks the light of Jesus into our hearts, and his light shines so powerfully through us that we are like stars in the universe that point the whole human race toward real life (Philippians 2:15-16).

Jesus, who is the light of the world, re-creates us into the light of the world. We are light, not because of anything in ourselves, but because we are in a supernatural union with the light of the world. He calls us to follow after him, and he says,

“Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness” (John 8:12).

Our focus must always be on the light, humbly trusting Jesus to reveal the light through us.

Chapter 1



The light of God's People

Matthew 5:14

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Can you hide a city that is sitting on top of a hill? Its light at night can be seen for miles. If we live for Christ, we will glow like lights, showing others what Christ is like. We hide our light by

- (1) Being quiet when we should speak,
- (2) Going along with the crowd,
- (3) Denying the light,
- (4) Letting sin dim our light,
- (5) Not explaining our light to others, or
- (6) Ignoring the needs of others

Be a beacon of truth—don't shut your light off from the rest of the world.

Let your light shine before men.

Matthew 5:16

“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

We shall become sons of light

John 12:36

“While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light” These things Jesus spoke, and He went away and hid Himself from them.

Jesus said he would be with them in person for only a short time, and they should take advantage of his presence while they had it.

Like a light shining in a dark place, he would point out the way they should walk.

If they walked in his light, they would become “sons of light,” revealing the truth and pointing people to God.

As Christians, we are to be Christ’s light bearers, letting his light shine through us. How brightly is your light shining? Can others see Christ in your actions?

We are neither of the night nor of the darkness

1 Thessalonians 5:5

For you are all sons of light and sons of day we are neither of night nor of darkness.

As you near the end of a long race, your legs ache, your throat burns, and your whole body cries out for you to stop. This is when friends and fans are most valuable. Their encouragement helps you push through the pain to the finish line. In the same way, Christians are to encourage one another.

A word of encouragement offered at the right moment can be the difference between finishing well and collapsing along the way. Look around you. Be sensitive to others' need for encouragement, and offer supportive words or actions.

Chapter 2



Nations will come to your light.

Isaiah 60:3

"Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

All people would come to Jerusalem because God would be living there and they would be attracted to his light. Don't be discouraged when you look around and see so few people turning to God; one day people throughout the earth will recognize him as the one true God.

The light is as morning without clouds

2 Samuel 23:4

Is as the light of the morning when the sun rises, a morning without clouds, when the tender grass springs out of the earth, through sunshine after rain.'

David spoke of a just and righteous ruler. This will be fulfilled in Jesus Christ when he returns to rule in perfect justice and peace.

You shall bring forth your righteousness as light.

Psalm 37:6

He will bring forth your righteousness as the light and your judgment as the noonday.

David calls us to take delight in the Lord and to commit everything we have and do (our “way”) to him. But how do we do this?

To *delight* in someone means to experience great pleasure and joy in his or her presence. This happens only when we know that person well. Thus, to delight in the Lord, we must know him better. Knowledge of God’s great love for us will indeed give us delight.

To *commit* ourselves to the Lord means entrusting everything—our lives, families, jobs, possessions—to his control and guidance. To commit ourselves to the Lord means to trust in him (Psalm 37:5), believing that he can care for us better than we can ourselves.

We should be willing to wait patiently (Psalm 37:7) for him to work out what is best for us.

The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Isaiah 60:1

"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

Your whole body is full of light.

Luke 11:36

"If therefore your whole body is full of light, with no dark part in it, it will be wholly illumined, as when the lamp illumines you with its rays."

The lamp is Christ; the eye represents spiritual understanding and insight. Evil desires make the eye less sensitive and blot out the light of Christ's presence. If you have a hard time seeing God at work in the world and in your life, check your vision. Are any sinful desires blinding you to Christ?

Chapter 3



Rejoice for a while in his light

John 5:35

"He was the lamp that was burning and was shining and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.

The religious leaders knew what the Bible said but failed to apply its words to their lives. They knew the teachings of the Scriptures but failed to see the Messiah to whom the Scriptures pointed.

They knew the rules but missed the Savior. Entrenched in their own religious system, they refused to let the Son of God change their lives. Don't become so involved in "religion" that you miss Christ.

We share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Colossians 1:12

Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

Paul was exposing a heresy in the Colossian church that was similar to knowledge in itself is empty.

To be worth anything, it must lead to a changed life and right living. His prayer for the Colossians has two dimensions:

- (1) That they might be filled with the knowledge of God's will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding, and
- (2) That they would bear fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.

Knowledge is not merely to be accumulated; it should give us direction for living. Paul wanted the Colossians to be wise, but he also wanted them to *use* their knowledge. Knowledge of God is not a secret that only a few can discover; it is open to everyone. God wants us to learn more about him, and also to put belief into practice by helping others.

Sometimes we wonder how to pray for missionaries and other leaders we have never met. Paul had never met the Colossians, but he faithfully prayed for them. His prayers teach us how to pray for others, whether we know them or not.

We can request that they:

- (1) Understand God's will,
- (2) Gain spiritual wisdom,
- (3) Please and honor God,
- (4) Bear good fruit,
- (5) Grow in the knowledge of God,

- (6) Be filled with God's strength,
- (7) Have great endurance and patience,
- (8) Stay full of Christ's joy, and
- (9) Give thanks always.

All believers have these same basic needs. When you don't know how to pray for someone, use Paul's prayer pattern for the Colossians.

The nations will walk by its light

Revelation 21:24

The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

The temple, the center of God's presence among his people, was the primary place of worship. No temple is needed in the new city, however, because God's presence will be everywhere. He will be worshiped throughout the city, and nothing will hinder us from being with him.

Light is sown like seed for the righteous

Psalm 97:11

Light is sown like seed for the righteous and gladness for the upright in heart.

A sincere desire to please God will result in an alignment of your desires with God's desires.

You will love what God loves and hate what God hates. If you love the Lord, you will hate evil. If you do not despise the actions of people who take advantage of others, if you admire people who only look out for themselves, or if you envy those who get ahead using any means to accomplish their ends, then your primary desire in life is not to please God.

Learn to love God's ways and hate evil in every form—not only the obvious sins but also the socially acceptable ones.

Your light will break out like the dawn.

Isaiah 58:8

"Then your light will break out like the dawn, and your recovery will speedily spring forth; and your righteousness will go before you; the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.

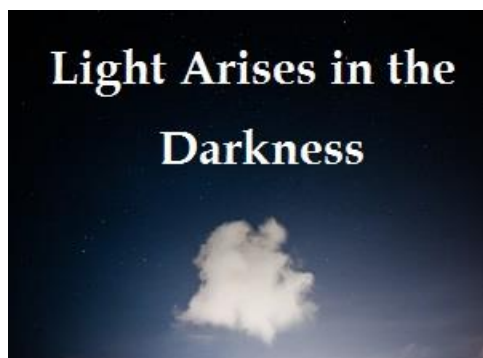
We cannot be saved by deeds of service without faith in Christ, but our faith lacks sincerity if it doesn't reach out to others.

Fasting can be beneficial spiritually and physically, but at its best fasting helps only the person doing it. God says he wants our service to go

beyond our own personal growth to acts of kindness, charity, justice, and generosity.

True fasting is more than what we don't eat; it is pleasing God by applying his Word to our society.

Chapter 4



Light arises in the darkness.

Psalm 112:4

Light arises in the darkness for the upright; He is gracious and compassionate and righteous

Generosity will cure two problems that money can create. The rich man may abuse others in his desire to accumulate wealth.

Generosity will eliminate that abuse. Also, the fear of losing money can be a snare. Generosity and respect for God places our trust in him, not our money, for justice and security.

God will make darkness into light

Isaiah 42:16

"I will lead the blind by a way they do not know, in paths they do not know I will guide them I will make darkness into light before them and rugged places into plains These are the things I will do, And I will not leave them undone."

Your life would be brighter than noonday.

Job 11:17

"Your life would be brighter than noonday; Darkness would be like the morning.

Moses did not know that his face did shine

Exodus 34:29

It came about when Moses was coming down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the testimony were in Moses' hand as he was coming down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because of his speaking with Him.

Moses' face was radiant after he spent time with God. The people could clearly see God's presence in him.

How often do you spend time alone with God? Although your face may not light up a room, time spent in prayer, reading the Bible, and meditating should have such an effect on your life that people will know you have been with God.

They were afraid of the shine of Moses face.

Exodus 34:30

So when Aaron and all the sons of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.

Chapter 5



The face of Moses showed God's glory.

2 Corinthians 3:7

But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was.

Paul contrasts the glory of the Ten Commandments with the glory of the life-giving Spirit.

If the law that leads to death, was glorious, how much more glorious is God's plan to give us life through his Spirit! The sacrifice of Jesus Christ is far superior to the Old Testament system of sacrifice

If Christianity is superior to the Judaism of the Old Testament, which was the highest form of religion on earth, it will surely be superior to any other religion we may come across.

Because God's plan is wonderful by comparison to any other, we dare not reject it or treat it casually.

They shall see and be radiant

Isaiah 60:5

"Then you will see and be radiant, and your heart will thrill and rejoice; because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you, the wealth of the nations will come to you.

Don't be discouraged when you look around and see so few people turning to God; one day people throughout the earth will recognize him as the one true God.

They looked at him and were radiant

Psalm 34:5

They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces will never be ashamed.

God promises great blessings to his people, but many of these blessings require our active participation.

He will deliver us from fear (Psalm 34:4),

He will save us out of our troubles (Psalm 34:6),

He will guard and deliver us (Psalm 34:7),

He will show us goodness (Psalm 34:8),

He will supply our needs (Psalm 34:9),

He will listen when we talk to him (Psalm 34:15),

He will redeem us (Psalm 34:22),

But we must do our part.

We can appropriate his blessings when we seek him (Psalm 34:4, 10),

We can appropriate his blessings when we cry out to him (Psalm 34:6, 17),

We can appropriate his blessings when we trust him (Psalm 34:8),

We can appropriate his blessings when we fear him (Psalm 34:7, 9),

We can appropriate his blessings when we refrain from lying (Psalm 34:13),

We can appropriate his blessings turn from evil,

We can appropriate his blessings when we do good and seek peace (Psalm 34:14),

We can appropriate his blessings humble (Psalm 34:18),

We can appropriate his blessings serve him (Psalm 34:22).

A man's wisdom illuminates him

Ecclesiastes 8:1

Who is like the wise man and who knows the interpretation of a matter?
A man's wisdom illumines him and causes his stern face to beam.

Wisdom is the ability to see life from God's perspective and then to know the best course of action to take.

Most people would agree that wisdom is a valuable asset, but how can we acquire it?

Proverbs 9:10 teaches that the fear of the Lord (respect and honor) is the beginning of wisdom. Wisdom comes from knowing and trusting God; it is not merely the way to find God.

Knowing God will lead to understanding and then to sharing this knowledge with others.

They waited for the spring rain

Job 29:23

"They waited for me as for the rain, and opened their mouth as for the spring rain.

Pride is especially deceptive when we are doing right. But it separates us from God by making us think we're better than we really are. Then comes the tendency to trust our own opinions, which leads to other kinds of sin. While it is not wrong to recount past deeds, it is far better to recount God's blessings to us.

Chapter 6



**The Righteous
Shall Shine as the
STARS**

The righteous shall shine as the stars forever

Daniel 12:3

"Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

Many people try to be stars in the world of entertainment, only to find their stardom temporary. God tells us how we can be eternal “stars” — by being wise and leading many to God’s righteousness. If we share our Lord with others, we can be true stars—radiantly beautiful in God’s sight!

The light of the righteous rejoice

Proverbs 13:9

The light of the righteous rejoices, but the lamp of the wicked goes out.

I was wrong” or “I need advice” are difficult phrases to utter because they require humility. Pride is an ingredient in every quarrel. It stirs up conflict and divides people. Humility, by contrast, heals.

Guard against pride. If you find yourself constantly arguing, examine your life for pride. Be open to the advice of others, ask for help when you need it, and be willing to admit your mistakes.

The path of the just shines brighter

Proverbs 4:18

But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn that shines brighter and brighter until the full day.

The righteous shall shine forth as the sun.

Matthew 13:43

"Then THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father He who has ears, let him hear.

At the end of the world, angels will separate the evil from the good. There are true and false believers in churches today, but we should be cautious in our judgments because only Christ is qualified to make the final separation.

If you start judging, you may damage some of the good “plants.” It’s more important to judge our own response to God than to analyze others’ responses.

Jesus often uses these terms to refer to the coming judgment. The weeping indicates sorrow or remorse, and gnashing of teeth shows extreme anxiety or pain.

Those who say they don't care what happens to them after they die don't realize what they are saying. They will be punished for living in selfishness and indifference to God.

Those who receive God's favor stand in bright contrast to those who receive his judgment

To receive Jesus as your savior, please pray this Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation
Holy Bible: New Living Bible translation.

Additional comments and charts are taken from:

Life Application Study Bible. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print