

*See the Darkness
but walk in
The Light*

See the Darkness but walk in the Light

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.'

John 1:1-5 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."

John 8:12

The saviour of the world is the Light of God who came into the darkness of the world, and the darkness did not overcome Him. If we follow Him the darkness will not overcome us either.

Jesus is the Light, and He calls us who believe in Him to be light bearers. Why light? We need light if we have to walk in the darkness of the world and not be overcome by that darkness. We need the light if we are going to lead others out of the darkness and into the true light. How can we see a

need for a light if we don't see the darkness itself? We need to see the darkness and at the same time live in the light of Jesus Christ.

Our life depends on seeing the darkness

See the darkness when we feel mistreated, and stand in the light. See the darkness in us when we want to complain about not being treated appropriately. Remember we are not of the world and its darkness; we have no rights in the world, for we have been removed from the world and placed in the Kingdom of God. We are now the light for the world. See the darkness in us when pride wants recognition. See the darkness when we feel we have not received due respect. See the darkness that wants to justify indignation at being hard done by.

The prince of darkness comes to us with plausible arguments to justify ourselves, and to defend ourselves, but all these ways lead to death in his darkness. See the darkness and put it off by bowing down in humility and surrender to the Spirit of Light within, so that we can overcome self and sin and live in His marvellous and victorious light. But remember, we can't put off

what we can't see and we won't see if we're not surrendered. See the darkness in pride, arrogance, impatience, anger resentment, self sufficiency, separation, intolerance, injustice, unkindness, self seeking, self pity, depression, hate, unfaithfulness, worldliness, self importance, unbelief, greed, laziness, immaturity, and disobedience.

See the darkness is about 'me', it's all about 'me' my rights; my way; my world, my will. The darkness has a vested interest in us continuing to look to ourselves, and achieves this by getting us to react to the world by demanding our way. Reacting to the darkness and thereby taking its words as truth grieves the Spirit of God and therefore grieves the light in us. The darkness speaks lies and unsettling words to create anxiousness and indignation so that we grieve the Spirit of Light and abandon our faith in unbelief, thus bringing us more under his influence and control.

The Holy Spirit reveals our darkness

The first thing the Holy Spirit does is convict the world of sin. (John 16:8) He reveals the darkness in us so we can see what we have to deal with. If

we don't see the darkness there is no need for the light. There is no need for a warning. There is no need for dying to self. There is no need to live in the light. There is no need to love the Creator instead of the creation. There is no need to live in the Spirit. There is no need to see the darkness blinding us to its death. There is no need to have eyes that see and ears to hear.

If we don't see the darkness we won't live in the light. If we don't see the darkness and live in the light, we won't remember who we are in Christ. If we don't see the darkness and live in the light we will have an identity crisis. If we don't see the darkness we will stumble and fall. We will live in the shadow of mediocrity. We won't be an affective witness to Christ. We won't be free from the power of sin. We won't walk in the Spirit. We won't walk as He walked. We won't see the desperate need of those in the darkness. We won't see the danger of indifference. We won't see the prince of darkness waiting for us close by. If we are not saved from the darkness we are not saved into the light. If we don't walk in the light we won't recognise others who are light bearers.

It is one thing to talk about the darkness, it's another thing entirely to see the darkness everywhere and stay in the light. No light, no sight. Many think they have light but fail to see where they are because of the darkness within.

If our hearts desires are for the world and the things of the world, including its philosophy and solutions for how man should live, we are attached to the darkness and our eye is bad and the light we have is dark. (Matt 6:21-24) "If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!"

Matt 6:23

If the light in us is darkness we won't see we have an identity problem as a Christian. We won't see the darkness so we can walk in the light. We won't be able to worship in Spirit and truth. We won't see the pattern of our life is not fit for the Kingdom of God. We won't be able to be cherished or cherish others. We won't see that we are part of something much bigger than ourselves in Christ. We won't be able to be a light for others to find their way. We won't have oil for our lamp so we are ready for the day of the Lord. We won't be able to walk in the Spirit. We won't be able to walk as He walked. We won't understand why we

have depression. We won't be able to overcome poor self esteem. We won't be able to overcome bad habits. We won't be able to accept His will for Christian leadership. We won't be able to keep all His commandments. We won't be able to have victory over the sin in our life. We won't be able to see the need to turn 'ON' the light. We won't be able to come to the River of the Spirit for we won't see the need. We won't be able to understand the things of God because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Cor 2:14

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. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.*" John 11:9-10

Spiritual light is supernatural sight

'Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. But a natural man does not accept the things of

the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.

1 Cor 2:12-16

Seeing and hearing spiritually can be understood as hearing and gaining understanding directly from the Spirit, as a revelation of His truth, as a visions given by the Spirit, and also as having a spiritual sensing, a perception about something. It is seeing through our spirit with spiritual eyes, and hearing with spiritual ears, without which we are both blind and deaf. Unless we are truly born again in our spirit and committed to growing in Him through absolute surrender to His will, we won't have these spiritual eyes and ears to see as God sees and hears. Unless we are committed to growing in Christ to a mature faith we will continually get caught up in the darkness. Unless we are dying to self every day we may be in danger of wanting to get our ears tickled and follow after every wind of doctrine that suits our shadowy fancies.

A warning is needed

On the one hand, while it is important to see the darkness, it is also very important that we don't look at the darkness so intently that we lose sight of the Light.

On the other hand, the prince of darkness would have us believe there is no darkness at all, that there is no point in a light because there is no darkness. The darkness would have us believe this God stuff is an illusion for the weak and pitiful. 'For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.'

John 3:20

Let us not be shy about this, *the whole world is under the power of the evil one.* (1 John 5:19) And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. (2 Cor 11:14) '*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*'

Eph 6:12

We don't get to die to self because getting rid of the darkness and its control is easy to do. This is war. Furthermore, we often recognise the darkness in others long before we see it in ourselves. The log in our own eye is often unseen. This is often because we make excuses for our own failings, seeing them as just a natural way of things. We get caught up in the darkness because we react to the darkness we see in others and don't realise we have joined them in their blindness. When we excuse our own darkness and stumble as the blind, those around us living in the darkness will refuse to follow us because they have no confidence that we possess the power to overcome the darkness, or we have anything more than they have. Therefore they won't believe we have anything that can help them in their struggles. But we are called to be light and to walk in the light.

Eph 5:8

Reacting to the darkness feeds the darkness and spreads its influence to others just like a ripple effect crosses many waters. Reacting to the darkness is to agree with the darkness and therefore to surrender to that darkness and then dwell and abide in the darkness. This means we

give an open invitation for the darkness to dominate and rule our life as in the kingdom of darkness, with all the spiritual consequences of blindness, and fellowship with the prince of darkness in serving his purposes. If we think we are saved but still live in the darkness the truth is not in us. *'If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.'* 1 John 1:6

Make a stand in the light

There is a need for eternal vigilance here. The darkness prowls around looking for those who are asleep in their understanding, so he can devour them with his darkness like a spider binds up pray in a web. Stay awake, indeed, awake from your slumber. *"Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!"* Rev 16:15

The word of God is a light for our paths (Psm 119:105) "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may

walk in his paths.” “Come; let us walk in the light of the LORD.”
Isa 2:3, 5

Agreeing with the light means we need to surrender to the light of God revealed to us in the Bible and invite the light to rule our lives so we live in fellowship with the Father and the Son, serving Him alone.

When we feel mistreated and denied, the answer is not to emphasise ourselves, for that is the way of darkness. Jesus says “Do not resist the one who is evil.” (Matt 5:39) Light calls for humility. When we find our value is in the light and our Father who lives in us, then we can rest in His love and acceptance, knowing we are always cherished. Worldly solutions to feelings of inferiority, only lead to more darkness. Choosing to ignore the ways of darkness and the solutions of the world means surrendering to God’s ways in the light, and this means believing what He says about us as children of the Light. This is real strength and the empowering that comes from God Himself.

Listening to the world and words of darkness is a very serious issue, and must be seen for what it is at the very beginning. When Peter was concerned

that his Lord was talking about suffering and death he voiced the words of human will and the darkness, so the Lord said to him “*Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.*”

Matt 16:22-23

Believing the light of Christ, gives confident and assured about who we are in Him. This means the world and hurtful words will not find a home in us. It means we will no longer react to the world’s barbs and no longer accept the words of darkness as true. This is real freedom ‘in Him’. This is living in the light and abiding in His truth.

There is a call going out to all God’s people. *Awaken the sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.*’ (Eph 5:14) Jesus is the light of the world and in Him is no darkness at all. As we are in Him, He is in us; therefore we are to be the light in the world. The only way to remain in the light and be the light for the world is to abide in Him in absolute submission to His will, which in turn keeps the light turned ‘ON’ in us.

It’s all about the light, His light, His will. Look to Him. We are to promote the light in all we think

and do. We keep our focus on Him and not on the world and its circumstances, and His peace will reign in our heart. *‘The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.’*
1 John 2:6

‘The hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarrelling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.’ Rom 13:11-14

‘For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.’
Eph 5:8

‘For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.’
(1 Thess 5:5) *‘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

Desire more light

The only way to have more light is to invite the Holy Spirit to fill us by our absolute surrender to His will. (Eph 5:18) Only in a will fully surrendered can the Holy Spirit give more light so that we are full of light. As we grow in Him our understanding of the needed depth of surrender and obedience will also grow, so we can be filled even more than we were before. For in Him there is no darkness at all.

"The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."

John 12:35-36

We are to be different from the way of the world. God calls us to be Holy as He is Holy. He calls us to be filled with His Spirit so we can live as His beloved children, full of grace and truth and light. *'For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.'*

2 Cor 4:6

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Matt 5:16

“Open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.”

Acts 26:18

“You are the light of the world.”

Matt 5:14

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