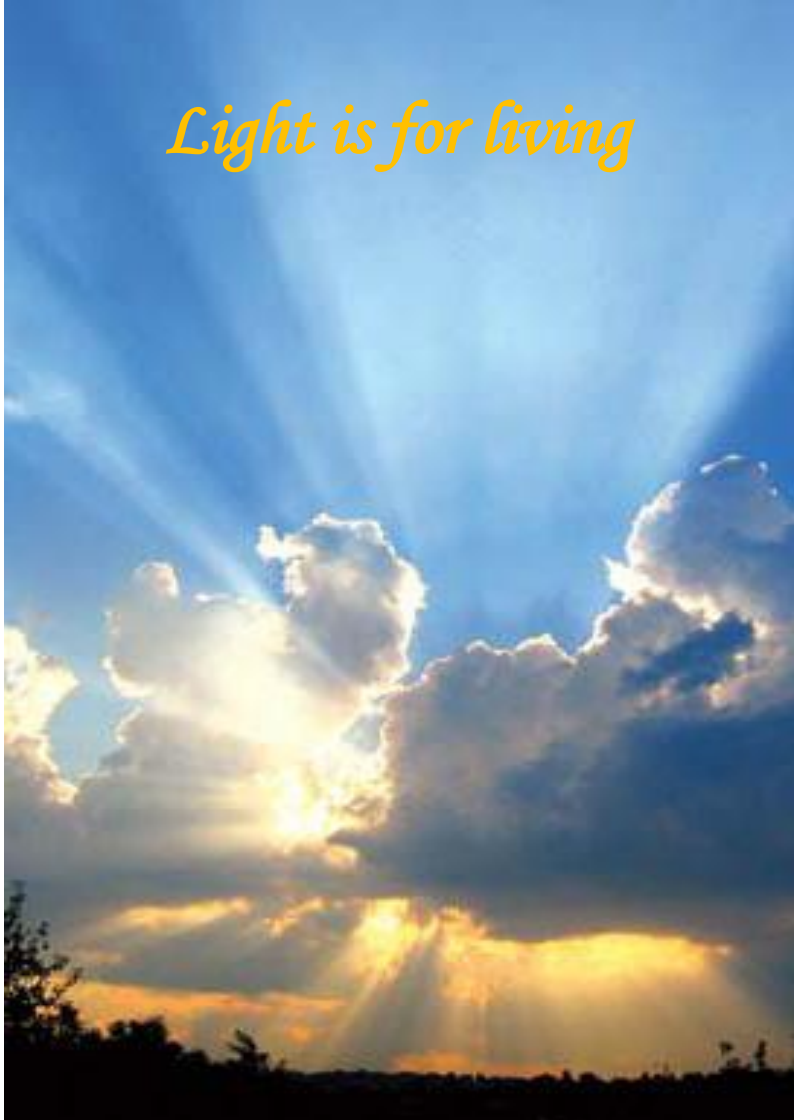


*Light is for living*



## *Light is for living*

*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

How easy it is to stumble when we forget we are living in the darkness as a child who has received the Light of God. How easy it is to forget that the normal life out there in the world is life lived in the darkness. How easy it is to forget that our light is there to help us remember we are a strangers walking in an alien world. This problem with the darkness is compounded by the fact that while all God's people have within them Light from Jesus Christ, all do not walk obediently in the light. Therefore most radiate only a small measure of that light, because many are still motivated by the darkness, as if it is the only reality around them.

When we get caught out reacting to this world as if it is the only reality, we cannot live in peace, and we will feel lost because we have lost sight of the light and lost our bearings. We have forgotten who we are as children of God and gotten

ourselves caught up in the shadows of a world list in darkness. They may well be His people, but that does not mean they understand His ways or live as mature children of God.

We must remember, just because people claim to belong to Jesus Christ, doesn't mean what they say or do reflects His reality, or His thoughts on anything. Therefore we must be careful when we expect understanding that is beyond their level of maturity, and their current level of surrender and obedience. We must remember that while all of His people have access to the light within them, few know who they are and how the light is to keep them from the world and its attractions and deceptions.

As light bearers, we must remember we are a light to shine in the darkness, we are not just light to be light; we are light to bring meaning and understanding where there is confusion and disorder, especially amongst God's people. We may know the Words written for our understanding in the Bible, but we cannot grasp the reality of its meaning if we are not ready to die to all that we were that we may live in the fullness

of His light. Some may not be ready to let go of all their attachments to the world to be one in Him alone. It is only in an attitude of total daily surrender that the Spirit of God gives more Light.

When we meet with believers in Bible study, we will find there will often be a tendency to seek the understanding of all present, as if all those present have a understanding of the reality of the Word under consideration, or that by some process of consensus we will arrive at some acceptable conclusion. This idea of consensus is a worldly way of saying all are equal so all have equal comprehension when it comes to meaning and reality. However for the people of God, the extent of our understanding is not revealed in what we say, but in the way we live the reality of Christ in us in all holiness and truth as we walk as He walked by the power of the Spirit who is the source of all light.

The Holy Spirit gives meaning and there is only one truth in Him. Often those who are not aware of the need for complete surrender to what is written, jump to conclusions in regards to some verse that grabs their attention, and then take it out

of its context in order to justify some particular idea they would like to promote. But the Spirit of Truth rewards those who keep the word in the context in which He had it written, He doesn't rubber stamp our futile attempts to rewrite His word. If we take it out of its context it's not His.

So in this regard we must be vigilant, only those who have the light revealed in them can bring that light to bear on the subject at hand. All have some degree of revelation but not all have the same level of understanding. It's not possible for someone who lives a half life in Christ to claim to be mature in their understanding and keep to His word, because they only believe half of what He says, so they cannot claim to lead others where they have never walked themselves.

The extent to which God's people have given up reacting to others and the events in the world, and instead walk in the Spirit, is the measure of our understanding. To the extent that we walk as children of God and do His work in making disciples, is the measure of our maturity in Christ, and therefore the measure of the light we can reveal in our lives.

*'So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.'*

Phil 2:12-16

### *We need to walk in this Light*

How easy it is to fall back into the pit of despair when we forget we are living in the world of darkness as a child of the Light. How easy it is to forget that the normal life lived in the world is life lived in the darkness without God. How easy it is to forget the light we have been given is to enlighten us, to help us remember we are really a stranger an alien in the world which walks in the darkness.

How easy is it for us to forget that we must always agree with God and live in His light if we are to be at peace with God and free from fear and turmoil. We need to remember that living in the Light means we need to surrender to the light and its power to change our mind and heart as we invite the light to rule our life so we live in fellowship with the Father and the Son, serving Christ alone.

We must remember that believing the Light of God lives in us as the Saviour of the world, means being confident and assured as to whom we are as a Child of God. Consequently, the world and its hurtful ways will not find a home in us any longer. Living in the Light mean we will no longer react to the world's attacks, and we will no longer accept the words of darkness spoken into our mind as being true.

It's all about the Light that lives in us. It is His Light, it is His will, and it is His Life. We should stop looking to our circumstances or our past to find meaning, we must look to Jesus. We have to stop promoting the darkness by giving it air time in our life. Instead we promote the Light in us by giving it prayer time, and by looking to the Light

in all we think and do. When we keep our focus on Jesus Christ and His Light, and not on the world and its circumstances which are damaged by the darkness, then His face will shine on us and His life and Light will reign in our heart.

### *Growing in the light*

In our growing pains on the path to maturity and fullness in His Life, we will need more Light. The only way to have more Light is to believe all God has said of us, and invite the Holy Spirit to fill us by our absolute surrender to His will. It is true for all God's Children, that only in a will fully surrendered to God can the Holy Spirit give us exceedingly more Light so that we are full of Light. When we humble ourselves we will grow in Him, and the understanding of our need to increase the depth of our surrender and obedience will also grow, so that we can be filled even more with His Light than we had before. We are now a part of the life that is only found in God, and in Him there is no shortage of light.

We have to be guarded about being double minded, we always have a choice where we want



to live. We can live in the darkness and its grip of death, or we can live in the Light of His Glory. We shouldn't be confused into thinking we need to find meaning in both the world of men and the Kingdom of God at the same time. We cannot have two masters. We are often deceived into thinking we have to accept the darkness and its work in our life as normal. We don't overcome the darkness by going back for a visit now and again; we dissolve it by living in the Light. We are a new creation, the old has passed away, and all things are made new. We must believe it, and live it.

We have to be guarded about being blown about by believing in every wind of human wisdom which is foolishness before God. The Spirit of the one who lives in us is greater than the spirit who lives in him who lives in the world, is this not so? Are we a Child of the Light or not? Since we are children of God we have to live as a Child of the Light. This is the mystery which has been hidden from ages past, and now has been revealed to us, it is God who lives in us, and He is our hope of glory. We need to be looking to the things above, and not to the things of the world order of darkness. We need to remember that we have died

and it is no longer we who live but Christ who lives in us.

God promises an abundance of His Light to all those who yield to Jesus so we can live in His Light. This being the case, the Child of Light has an advantage in every situation in the world when walking in the Light, because the Light we have received penetrates the very darkness which causes so many people to tremble in fear. With the Light in us turned 'On', all things can be revealed for what they are, as nothing can be hidden from the Spirit of Light in Jesus.

We must remember the things concerning the word of truth which Jesus taught us. The more we live in the Kingdom of Light the more we will know ourselves to be a stranger and an alien to the world of darkness, a world which denies the very need for Light. The more we desire the Light of God's Son, the more we will be transformed into His image and likeness, and the more we will have His mind to do the will of God.

The only cure for the darkness is the Light which is given to us by God. To have the Light we need, we must have God and not just a little of Him.

Peter's second letter to the Church says we have received everything we need for life and godliness. We have received the divine nature and escaped the corruption of the world.

2 Pet 1:3-4

When we are born of God we are born into the Christ life. Jesus is the bringer of Light into the world for "*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

*'You are all sons of light and sons of day. You are not of night or of darkness; so then do not sleep as others do, but be alert and sober.'*

1 Thess 5:5-6

Abiding with our life in Christ by the power of the Spirit is the only way we can keep our bearings and lead others into the light of Christ Jesus. Abide in the Light, abide in Jesus our Lord.

Contents compiled by Robert C May

Copyright © 2012

cometotheriver@optusnet.com.au

*Light is for living*

