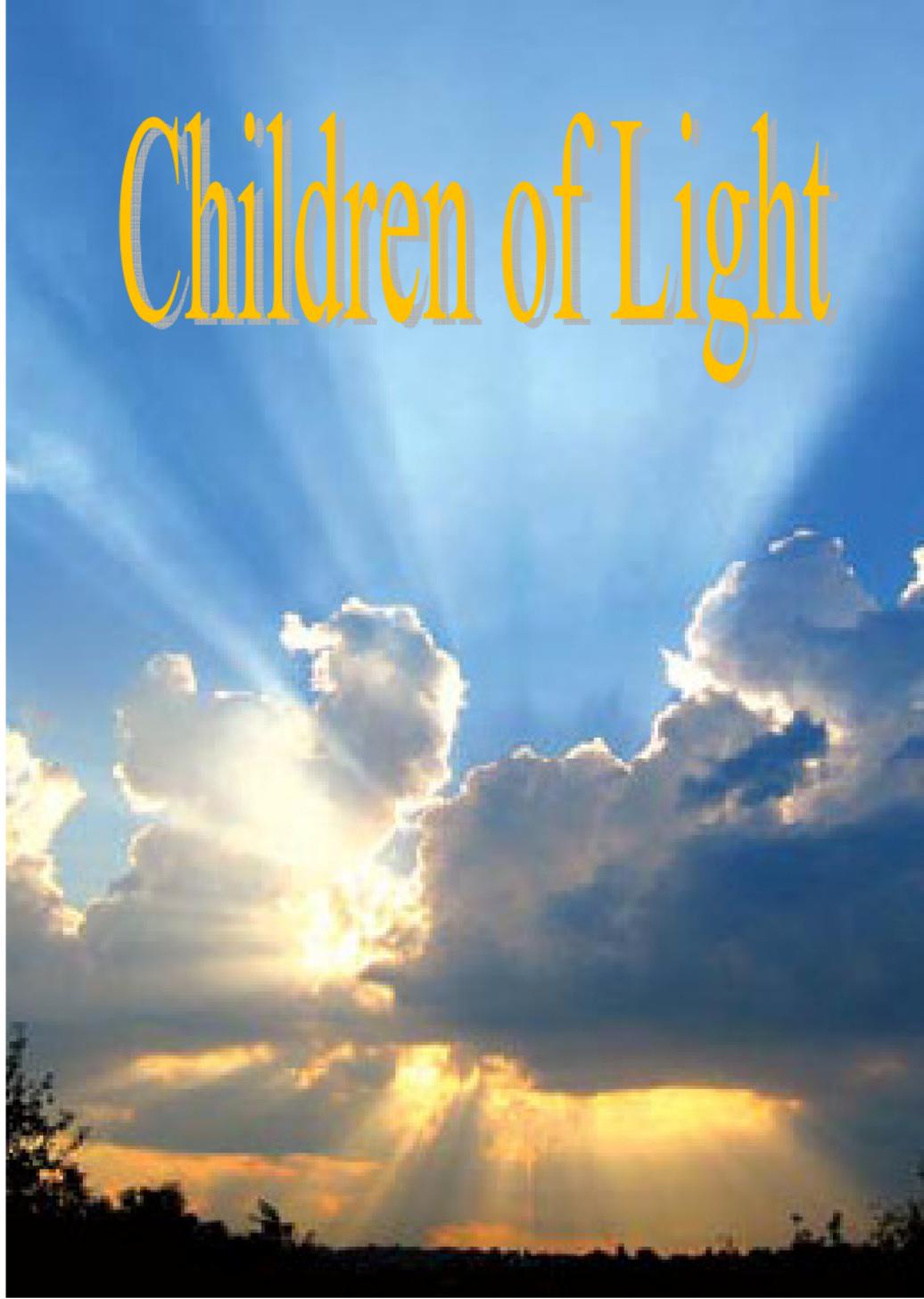


Children of Light



Children of 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 came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

John 1:1-5

To say God is the Light (1 John 1:5) tells us of He is morally pure and has complete knowledge of things, all that happens, both past, present and future. God is filled with perfect self knowledge and of all that is created by Him.

When John says that "God is light" He is declaring God is the foundation of all light in all that has been created, all that was, is, and ever will be. He is the source of all light. His Light is inseparable from His powerful holy presence and activity as God the creator of the world, who said "*let there be light.*" Gen 1:3-4

Throughout the Scriptures "light" is used to define of all that is contained in God's

unapproachable perfection. Instead of the darkness and error of the world we have His light of the truth; instead of the darkness of sin we have the light of His holiness; instead of the darkness of destruction we have His light of salvation.

John's use of the word "darkness" refers to all that is opposed to God, including the darkness of human sin and the dark power of Satan as the prince of the world. (John 14:30) By teaching us that "*in God, there is no darkness at all,*" (1 John 1:5) we are to understand God is separated from sin and has total supremacy over sin and its corrupting nature in the world.

Jesus is the light of life

Jesus came so that the Light of God was available to all mankind. *There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.* (John 1:9) When the Light of the world came to live amongst men, He bought His saving Light to a world darkened and controlled by Satan, the prince of darkness who is called *the Prince of the power of the air.*

Eph 2:2

Jesus came so that there is a way out of the darkness of the world. Jesus said: "*I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.*"
John 8:12

He said: "*I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.*" (John 12:46) "*While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light.*"
John 12:36

Believers are sons of light

Those who have confessed their sins and turned to trust in God for all things have been made clean by the blood of Jesus and are now to walk in the light. (1 John 1:7, 9; John 8:12) *You were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light.* Eph 5:8

God is Light and His children are born into the light by His Spirit so they can be *sons of light* and shine a light in the world the nature and purpose of God. *You are all sons of light.*
1 Thess 5:5

When those who believe in Jesus are born again by the Spirit, they become God's children of light. God's children are to reflect

the light of God in the world. They are to shine as the representatives of God in a dark world by living the kind of life that God would live if He were walking in our shoes.

Therefore Jesus said: "*you are the light of the world.*" "*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.*"

Matt 5:14, 16

God's children take the light into the world so others may have light. "*To open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.*"

Acts 26:18

For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

2 Cor 4:6

The children of light are truly a guide to the blind and a light for those who live in darkness. It was the purpose of Jesus that His disciples would take His message of light to the world. "*What I tell you in the darkness, speak*

in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops." Matt 10:27

God's children are saints in light

Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Col 1:12

The *sons of light* are saints in Christ and have an inheritance in eternity with the Lord in heaven. (Gal 3:18; Eph 1:11, 14) This is also called "*the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.*" (Eph 1:18) *If children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.*

Rom 8:17

God gave His precious Son as a living sacrifice so we could become God's children in His Light. Having a share in His Light means we can share in His inheritance if we share in giving ourselves as a living sacrifice.

Rom 12:1

The word saints, is taken from the original Greek word we know as holy, holy in the likeness of nature with the Lord. It is holy because it comes from God and is quite different from the nature of those in the world.

Being called a saint doesn't mean perfect without sin, it mean being perfected from sin by being faithful to the Lord who gives us life. This is clear since Paul wants us to grow in Christ. *'We have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.'* Col 1:9

The saints are conscious of the great debt they owe to God. (Col 1:13) This knowledge of His salvation should mean that they live for Him and for His glory and walk in a way to please the Lord in all things. Col 1:14, 23

Children of light separate their hearts and minds from the darkness

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are

done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.

Eph 5:6-13

Receiving the light of God means we have enough light to overcome the deception of the world. But there must be a real separation from the ways of the world of darkness to show the light of goodness, righteousness and truth, always endeavouring to please the Lord while exposing the deception of the darkness that alienates man from God. *'for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.'* 1 Thess 5:5-6

"But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God." John 3:21

Children of light fellowship with God's family in the Light

Children of the light desire fellowship with those who walk in the light, so they long to go to church which is the gathering of the chosen people of God in the light by the Spirit of God. *but if we walk in the Light as He Himself 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

Spiritual fellowship in the word of God is the way to keep us on track as we confess our sins to one another (James 5:16) and we are cleansed of all sin in learning to please God.

Coming to church is like enjoying Christmas day every Sunday. We gather in joy to enjoy fellowship with family and the receiving of gifts from the Holy Spirit.

However there is no joy in the Lord without our humble brokenness before the Lord. There is no light shared in fellowship with God without coming out of the darkness.

Children of light share the power of God's blessings

When the children of light look to God for the power of His blessings in our daily lives, is there any mention of the blessings of being empowered in denying self in order to take up our cross to follow Christ? Luke 9:23

Is there any word of gaining blessings in order to share in the suffering of Christ so we can be glorified with Him? Rom 8:17

Or is our prayer about being comfortable in the world from which we are supposed to have been separated to live in Christ in order to be light in the world? John 17:16

In Jesus Christ we have died to the world around us so we don't look to the world for life, and the world has been stripped of its power to destroy us because we are in Christ. *But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.* Gal 6:14

If we have been set apart from the world by Christ, and no longer living for the world, our desire should be for Christ, He alone is to be the reason for our life. *“But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.”* Rom 13:14

The power of God works in obedient children. As His disciples we are to become like Him. *“For to this you have been called, because Christ*

also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.” 1 Pet 2:21

As He offered Himself as a living sacrifice for us, we, by the power of the Spirit, offer ourselves as a living sacrifice for Him. *“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”* Rom 12:1

Nothing in the world can be allowed to take His place as we serve Him. *“Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.”* Col 3:2-4

In resisting the seduction of the world to compromise our faith, real effort is required by surrendering to the leading power of the Spirit of God. *“for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”* Rom 8:13-14

We must be determined to walk as Jesus walked. *“the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.”*
1 John 2:6

We are to live according to the character and the values of God who is our Father. *“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.”*
Eph 5:1

The questions we must ask ourselves are:--

1. Are we more concerned about enjoying life in the world? 2. Or are we sold out in our determination to follow the example of Christ? 3. Are we more interested in ourselves than our devotion to God?

We should never forget we are not our own, we have been bought with the precious blood of Christ. We should remember we have died to the world with Christ and been raised up to newness of life. We should never forget we no longer live for ourselves but Christ lives in us.

We should never forget that God works in us for His good pleasure.
Phil 2:13

Only having concerns for self in the world makes for an excellent forgetfulness so that

what we have experienced of the grace of God is of little importance.

The power of God's blessing is for those seeking Christ alone to be our life alone, for Christ is our life. Col 3:4

Children of light must be wise to the world

Children of light must take care how they live. *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise.* Eph 5:15

If we take our cues about our worth from people who fall short of the maturity of the mind of Christ, then we are in danger of wanting to be flattered by people so we seek their approval; and we will be shattered when their maturity isn't as high as they imagine, so they fail to live up to our expectations which are also lacking.

Our worth and standing comes from the God of Light alone, through His grace alone. If we are in Christ we are sons of God in Light, maybe not fully grown, but working out our salvation so we can have peace with God. If we are still interested in doing our own thing, then we walk in darkness, so peace and joy

will not be in our hearts. We exclude ourselves from the power of God's blessing to live as children of light.

In the same way, if we decide our peace and happiness is determined by worldly success and comfort, we will be deceived by thinking pleasure is the goal of life on earth, and we will be depressed when we see that the world has passed us by because we have little of what the world offers. Friendship with the world is to walk in darkness, that's depressing.

However if we are in the Light of Christ we have an inheritance in heaven that no one can take away. (Rom 8:38-39) If we are in Christ our peace and joy come from walking as children of light in His presence, regardless of what we have or don't have in the world.

If we are let down and feel unappreciated because someone or something hasn't turned out the way we want, then we have a lot to learn about the God of Light and how He works for our good in the world of darkness.

Rom8:28-29

When we are saved by the grace of God and adopted as children of light into His family we are to be content with what the Father provides. *I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.*

Phil 4:12

Being children of light also means God has set us aside from the world in order for us to be holy as He is holy. Our grateful response is to continually work on the process of separating ourselves from any attachment to the world of darkness according to the thinking of ordinary men of the world so we can better reflect the light of God.

Our salvation is from the darkness of the world and into the light of the kingdom of God; in order that we can live as children of light who find all we need in the hands of God to the glory of God so we can enjoy Him forever.

If we don't have peace in our hearts as a child of His light, then we have every reason to be unhappy and depressed. A lack of peace means we are either doing our own thing, and

we don't really know God. It may mean we are not children of light and lack peace with God, so that we lack His eternal life and are condemned to be separated from God in eternal darkness.

Even the children of light have to learn that the mind that is fixed on God, *He will kept in perfect peace.* (Isaiah 26:3) Therefore the mind that is fixed on the world and men will not have lasting peace and will suffer eternal separation from God in eternal judgement.

Rom 8:6

The children of darkness resist the light

If we don't have the light of Christ we have abandoned ourselves to darkness and death.

The darkness of the world is the absence of light and resistance to the light of God. This absence of light is everything that falls short of the glory of God.

People of the darkness are those who resist the light because they love the darkness rather than the light. (John 3:19) *in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of*

the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2 Cor 4:4

"For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed." John 3:20

No wonder some people are deceived, for the god of this world, Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 2 Cor 11:14

The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. 1 John 2:9

Darkness gets more darkness

Living in the darkness of the world is natural for all mankind until the light of God dawns in our hearts. The darkness is painful for everyone. We don't go through life unharmed; everyone is afflicted with the consequences of our mindless self centeredness as well as that of others.

Life in the darkness is always going to be adding to our pain. Satan's darkness feeds on darkness so that its increase is expanding in every direction to infect even more people. Our parents sin adds to the potential for our sin, and our sin adds to the potential

opportunity for others to keep adding to the world of darkness.

The influence of darkness in the world is all pervasive so that nothing under its control can be diverted from its path of deceptive destruction, unless God intervenes by the work of His grace. Parental abuse can easily lead to the victim becoming a bully. Emotional detachment by the father can result in a confused sexual orientation. Family dysfunction breeds serious human dislocation that infects every area of life.

Walking as children of light or darkness

We should not be surprised that the people of the world will be true to walking in the darkness. Therefore we who have received mercy from God should have pity for those who are blinded by the spirit of the world. The blind need the light of our compassion, but they should not be appeased as if they have something we need.

We must remain in the light and show mercy for those who live in the darkness of the world, for they have been created by God to

have the image of God even though they are slaves to their fallen nature and cannot escape except by the cross of Christ. The children of darkness cannot free themselves from their spiritual bondage to the prince of the world because they are under his power.

We who walk in the light are to live on God's terms. The children of light have received faith and forgiveness from their God and saviour Jesus Christ through His death and resurrection; by which He has freed us from the power of the enemy of God to live for God in holiness and truth. We have received His truth to inform us how to live as His children. This life style instruction we have received in the Bible is what we call doctrine. We are the keepers of God's doctrine, God's truth for living.

The children of light have approached God in humility and brokenness; in total surrender they commit themselves to following the example of Christ because they now know that only Jesus Christ knows the way to God. And they know the love of God because God is love and light and has poured out His love

into their hearts by the Spirit. (Rom 5:5) The children of light have also received the wisdom of God by the work of the Spirit of God.

1 Cor 2:12-16

The children of light come to the light because their deeds are pleasing to God. (John 3:21) The children of light have surrendered to the Spirit of God to be governed by His heavenly priorities.

Rom 8:14

The children of darkness have turned their backs on God because of their pride, insisting they can find their way through life by their own understanding. The children of darkness delight in the wisdom of the world which is foolishness to God.

1 Cor 3:19

The children of darkness have their home in the world filled with darkness in opposition to God. They seek what they want from what has been created, (this is idolatry) they put their trust in things and want power over others. They choose the darkness because it is where they prefer to live because their seed is from the devil. *"You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father."*

John 8:44

The children of the world find their desires are in the world instead of being secured with the Creator of all things. The children of darkness resist the light because their deeds are against obedience to the Lord Jesus who is the Light of the world. The children of the world are enslaved to the spirit of the world to be bound up with him to share in his condemnation and judgment by God.

Rev 20:11-15

Children of light are willing slaves to Christ. The children of light serve Christ as temporary residents of the world where they live as strangers and aliens in a foreign land. The children of light are not to place their desires on the things of the world, because their certain living hope is fixed on the coming kingdom of God in Christ.

The children of light follow the example of the Light of Jesus Christ, who as the Lord of all things, who has transferred them from the darkness of the world into the Light of the kingdom of God. The children of light have chosen to deny self interest and worldly understanding to take up their cross to follow Christ's understanding of life in the Light.

The children of darkness follow the leading of the prince of the world who is the father of darkness having temporary dominion over the world; because Jesus Christ is coming again. The children of darkness have been blinded to this truth by the evil spirit of the world.

The children of light are trained by the Spirit of God who has the power of light over darkness. The children of light are not to make themselves comfortable in the world of darkness, because the world is in opposition to the holiness of God and their heavenly nature.

The children of light cannot entertain friendship with the world which is opposed to the truth of God in Christ. The children of light hate their life in the world of darkness that presents itself as an enemy of God. To have friendship with the world is to be an enemy of God. The children of light live to bring the light of God to the world of darkness.

Where have you placed your hope of peace, in God, or in the pretence of the world? It's not too late to die to the world to live in the Light.

A time is coming when the world of darkness will face God's judgement and come to an end, along with all who have hoped in the world and turned their backs on God.

Even the children of light will be held accountable, for it is God who will render to each person according to his deeds. (Rom 2:6) *So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.* Rom 14:12

If you feel you don't know Christ Jesus well enough and have not committed yourself to follow His example, it's not too late.

This is the powerful prayer for God's blessings. *Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.*

Eph 3:20-21

Holy Father, please work in me whatever the cost to myself, so I can be a better light tomorrow than I am today. For the need in the world is so great and I am so small I can do nothing unless you remain in me and I in You.
Abide in Me

Living Water Resources

Come to the river

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