

Spiritual Light is having God Inside

To know God's presence is a matter of the heart. We are created to experience the presence of God deeply. Sin deadens the heart. We can't love with our head. We can't be comforted in our head. We need God to know God. Knowledge of God's presence begins with compelling repentance as a wounding of the guilty heart. No sinners broken hearted surrender to obey God, means no experience of God's presence in a new heart, to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Who can teach us about God unless God is working in the 

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'In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.'

Psalm 16:11

'The one who says that he remains in Him ought, himself also, walk just as He walked.'

1 John 2:6

Jesus walked in intimate fellowship with the Father. He walked by the Spirit. His kingdom was not of this world. His kingdom values are not like the world's values.

The world is unable to comprehend what He was talking about. But we are to live just as He lived, according to the standard in which He lived, in holiness we are to live.

"Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot listen to My word. You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. ...But because I say the truth, you do not believe Me."

John 8:43-45

Jesus wasn't concerned with changing the world. He was about changing people. The world will not be moved by the light of God. *'In Him was life, and the life was the Light of mankind. And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not grasp it.'*

John 1:4-5

'But a natural person 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 discerned.'

1 Cor 2:14

Jesus was about moving souls from darkness to light

'For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.'

Col 1:13

But we often have a habit of wanting to change the world so that those in the world adopt or accept our Christian point of view. We constantly criticise governments and organisations for lack of understanding and true foresight.

We get frustrated with friends and family who seem unable to grasp our Christian perspective.

This can especially occur in the Church, because of the presence of unbelievers who are barely nominal can only understand ideas and information without spiritual transformation and not know of the life transformation of the heart, and also, with the immature in the Church who have not grown sufficiently in their spiritual transformation by constantly digesting the solid truth of God's word.

“There's such a thing as teaching a sinner to act like a Christian. You baptise him and confirm him and feed him the Lord's Supper regularly and you instruct him in ethics and soon he begins acting like a Christian, just as a chimpanzee acts like a man. But he is not a Christian, because he doesn't have that inward factor that impels him to righteousness and true holiness. He is only taught from the outside to be a Christian. A vast number of church members are taught to imitate Christians. They read the Sermon on the Mount and they know how a Christian should live. They don't live like that at all, but they approximate it; they play it by ear and get close to it. Enough that they are accepted into the church and they go to church and sing and give, and people think they are Christians. But they are living by external pressure and by artificial training and imitation, not by a native factor inside of them which teaches them to act in a certain way. That unknown factor, which impels them to act like Christians, is what they don't have.”

A.W. Tozer. Fellowship of the burning heart.

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When frustration happens because we speak spiritual words, we need to ask ourselves whether we are also getting confused, because we want those who live in the darkness of the world, or those who haven't yet grasped the difference between light and darkness, to be able to operate with the light they don't yet possess.

Maybe there are times we are attempting to operate from the understanding of the world by offering the indigestible and incomprehensible to the unbelieving who reject our proposal.

It could be possible that we need to improved our understanding of the different ways of darkness and light a little better than we presently have, so we can better share the light we do have.

Spiritual Light is the knowledge of God for a relationship with God

'This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.'

1 John 1:5

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

'Who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To Him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen.'

1 Tim 6:16

Anybody who has not yet denied themselves and taken up their cross daily to follow Christ has not repented from their self-centred life, and they continue to walk in the darkness of the world, separated from the light that is real life, namely Jesus Christ.

"And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

John 3:19-21

'Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; the one who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

John 8:12

Jesus spoke of the difference between darkness and light

And He was saying to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am, you will die in your sins."

John 8:23-24

'So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly My disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8: 31-32

'Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin."

John 8:34

"So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free."

John 8:36

"Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot listen to My word."

John 8:43

"The one who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God."

John 8:47

"Truly, truly I say to you, if anyone follows My word, he will never see death."

John 8:51

And Paul sums it up like this:

'For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.'

Rom 8:6-8

'For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), as you try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible

is light. For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you." Eph 5:8-10, 13-14

Real knowing is having the light of God, this is the work of the Spirit of God who opens our hearts to the truth of God. Therefore, our ability to understand is limited by the degree we rely on our own understanding, this means we do not trust in God by putting away the darkness and our fleshly knowledge to rely on God and obey all He has given us to understand.

We are born again in the light to live in the presence of God

'Certainly the righteous will give thanks to Your name; The upright will dwell in Your presence.' Psalm 140:13

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which has been born of the flesh is flesh, and that which has been born of the Spirit is spirit." John 3:5-6

"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh provides no benefit; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit, and are life." John 6:63

'However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.' Rom 8:9

By the Grace of God, in Christ, by the gift of faith and spiritual rebirth, we have been united spiritually with Christ's resurrected nature as the Son of God. We are never the same again. We now live for another dominion. We live for Him in whom we are made new in the image of God. We live for His plan and purpose according to His Kingdom. We are part of His living body on earth, the Church.

This is the Salvation of God

"This Salvation can't be taught. Salvation, among other things, brings an implantation of an unknown fact within the soul that impels us to holiness, and the true Christian cries out, "Abba Father," by an impulse of the Spirit. He doesn't have to be taught, nobody says to the new Christian, now say, "Abba

Father." He says it because the Spirit of the Son is in his heart compelling him to say it.

The biggest question before us this morning is, has this happened to you? Have you received Him, believed on Him? Has He wrought in you that miracle, which impels you to want to do right, and that makes you grieve if you don't? It's most serious, my friends, that we ask the question and answer it."

A.W. Tozer. 'Fellowship of the burning heart.'

We have received the Spirit of God to live in the presence of God

"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." "that they may all be one; just as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me."

John 17:3, 21

'Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?'

1 Cor 3:16

It isn't enough to have faith without experiencing the manifest presence of God. To have faith without the ability to walk in the presence of God is like being an orphan.

It is only as we remain in His presence that we can rest in His love; and be able to trust His word and look to Him in all things that we can walk in His ways and bring forth much fruit to His praise and glory.

Jesus lived His life looking to the Father moment by moment, and we are called to keep our eye looking to Jesus who is the Author and Finisher of our faith.

The beauty of our spiritual abiding in Christ as we surrender to His will means we have the inner guidance of His Holy Spirit is that we will walk in His way, and have the power to live as He lived. As we abide in Him, we will be empowered by His Spirit to walk as He walked and become an outward expression of the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

The believer is chosen by God to walk in the light of His presence

'But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.'
'If we live by the Spirit, let's follow the Spirit as well.'

Gal 5:16, 25

'But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.' 1 Peter 2:9

However, to keep us from getting big headed we must be careful we don't start thinking more of ourselves than we ought. The shadows of darkness remain in our minds as we are undergoing our sanctification. Our spirit we call our heart, has received life from God, but the mind of the flesh needs to be further transformed into the mind of Christ.

Discipleship is about coming from the darkness of the world into the light of the kingdom of God. Entering the kingdom does not automatically produce fullness of godly thinking. Discipleship is about becoming like our Master.

The Father brings us into the kingdom but not all of us is immediately transformed into what we will be in heaven. Due diligence is required so that we put to death what remains of the earthly in us so that we can grow in holiness and reflect the light of God.

In this holiness undertaking of our spiritual maturity, Christ has provided His church for the spiritual growth of all His disciples. This church is to be made up of all who believe in Him, and all are equipped to contribute to the growth of the whole church by the Holy Spirit. We are in Christ to serve as He served.

It is not possible to claim to be in the will of God if the power of the Spirit is not having effective dominance in the life of the believer. If the corporate body of Christ does not have our deepest affection, we have not understood what it is to be in Christ who lives in His body the Church.

All of life without God in control is a fraud. In the end, each of us needs to examine ourselves to see if there is any semblance of fraud in us who claim to know Him.

Because we don't know what we don't know, which is mostly because of our personal shadows, we need each other and the gifts all have received from the giver of light for the common good. This is so that we can benefit from the growth of light in others.

Because holiness is a process, there are varying degrees of light in the church. Light is the fruit of Christ and the working of the Spirit blooming in the life of the Saint. The more the mind is set on the Spirit, the more internal light, and the better saints will reflect the life of Christ. The more the saints are committed to the corporate life of the body of Christ, and their application of the gift of the Spirit, the more mature the individual saint, and the more useful the body will be in carrying out the will of God to go into the world to bring people out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Therefore, every idea and proposal concerning the truth we want to share with anyone, must be verified first by the whole word of God if we are to avoid errors and venture into the dark shadows of the world. If we have an opinion that we think is valid, we must always be able to support it from many biblical references, and see that it is compatible with the whole teaching of God from Genesis to Revelation.

The Spirit of God's presence is our light as we walk together in the darkness

In Jesus Christ we have the light of God to enable us to experience the manifest, conscious presence of God. *"The one who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will reveal Myself to him."*

John 14:21

In Christ we have God living in us. And since God is light, love, knowledge and peace, all of our personal struggles come from not being aware that we are looking at things from the perspective of the darkness of the world, rather than abiding in Christ. We need to be able to confidently say: *'Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.'*

Gal 2:20

If this truth is not taken to heart, and remains some distant doctrine in our heads, our heart is not in it, and then we will not be able to live in the presence of Christ, we will not be able to abide in Him and produce the fruit of His life. *"the one who remains in Me, and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."*

John 15:5

By the grace of God in Christ, we are now in God as children of the light. To be true to God we must always stand in the light and see the darkness with His eyes, and only then, we will observe the world as it actually is, and we will stand in the light and remain in the peace of God, even though we are heartbroken because of the sin we seen in the world.

'But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, so that the day would overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; so then, let's not sleep as others do, but let's be alert and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk, get drunk at night. But since we are of the day, let's be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you also are doing.'

1 Thess 5:4-11

And because our Father has providence over our walk, the light of God doesn't remove the pain of our suffering with Christ our Lord, but it does ensure we can rejoice in the fact of our security in the love of God.

'The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and 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. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.'

Rom 8:16-18

We can only claim to own the truth of God when we live in the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, knowledge of the light and darkness helps us keep our spiritual standing in the chaos of the world.

Whenever we naturally fall back to thinking about the world as before, we have stepped back into the darkness, and then our light is not light, and we are exposed to the flesh and ignorance remaining in our minds. Thinking like this does not keep us in the wisdom of God.

"The eye is the lamp of the body; so then, if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of

darkness. So if the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!"

Matt 6:22-23

However, we are not all equal, there are degrees of light in the church

Light produces the fruit of Christ's life manifest as the working of the Spirit blooming in the life of the Saint. The more the mind is set on the Spirit, the more the saints will reflect the life of Christ. The more the saints are committed to the corporate life of the body of Christ, and the application of the gifts of the Spirit, the more mature the individual, and the more useful the body in carrying out the will of God. And as a result, the more the Church will be seen as relevant in the darkness of the world.

It is not possible to claim to be in the will of God if the power of the Spirit is not having effective dominance in the life of the believer so they walk in God's presence in preference to all other desires.

For God's presence to be known, requires the control of our mind. We must learn to put away our natural thinking and train our minds to live in the light where the presence of God dwells. The more we look to worldly things, the less the presence of God is manifest in us, and the more the shadows hinder our sight. The church is where the light of the manifest presence of God can be known corporately among those who no longer live for themselves but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. The presence of God is the result of transforming our minds in spiritual maturity.

The more the church resembles the world's thinking, the less useful it will be able to witness to Christ, and the less anyone can know that God actually dwells within His people. The fewer the people who dwell in the conscious presence of God; the more worldly thinking will disrupt the congregation.

In order to possess the hidden nature of God which is birthed by the light of the Spirit, the born-again Christian must always be seeking to be motivated by the light of God, and as a result of absolute surrender to Christ, they are therefore compelled from the inside to no longer live for themselves but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. Our degree of obedience in submission to Christ in His Church and our sacrificial service reveal the level of our maturity.

In his book 'Fellowship of the burning heart' A.W. Tozer wrote: "*But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.*" (Jeremiah 31:33). So there's where we get it. "*I will put my laws into their heart.*" A Christian is one who has had the laws of God inscribed in his heart, the motivation center of his life. That's a Christian. Nobody else is a Christian, and nothing else is a Christian."

And we can add: "*And I will put My Spirit within you and bring it about that you walk in My statutes, and are careful and follow My ordinances.*"

Ezek 36:27

The Father says in a way, that the mature Christian will obey the Spirit and be involved in the Church by using the spiritual gifts that God has provided for the common good. The mature Christian will be delighted to witness to Christ at every opportunity as they go about their business in the world. The mature Christian will be manifesting the qualities of the love of God, for God, and each other, and the world. How is it possible to claim Christ and fail to do what He died for?

If the believer's faith doesn't extend to actually walking in the presence of God which means living according to His sovereign will, there will be many worldly distractions that will compete with the internal motivation of the Spirit.

Often the light of the knowledge of God will be 'turned off,' and the fruit of righteousness and truth will be undeveloped. Where the mind has not been sufficiently transformed by the refining fire of adversity; and we have been lazy in putting to death what is earthly in us according to the discipline of God; the mind of the flesh and darkness is the only alternative, and it quickly acts as the default path of any understanding.

Providentially, God has not left us without support

God is at work in all His children. The antidote for every disagreeable experience is not to get into a bind over our supposed rights in the world, or go on carping and complain about the cruel injustice we have to endure.

We must be mindful that the world is fallen and doesn't know it; and the saints of the most high have no right of reply, they live for another kingdom based on holiness.

Instead, we have God. *'For it is God who is at work in you, both to desire and to work for His good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life.'* Phil 2:13-16

It is only those who have worked on their maturity who live in the presence of God who are mindful of His awesome holy presence, who will know the reality of fear and trembling, because they know their God is at work in them and He knows their innermost thoughts and desires. Those who reveal the inner working of the Father are the ones we need to get advice from.

The church is to follow the example of Christ so it is all about sacrificially serving Jesus Christ on His terms, and not about what we want to make up comfortable in the world. When we are at odds with the Spirit, we are not comfortable and we need to ask ourselves some serious questions.

Is our discontent with where He has placed us serving His purpose?

Is our grumbling about His training in adversity showing ingratitude for His salvation?

Is our impatience with the disagreeable aspects of life showing His humility?

Is our anger consistent with His mercy?

Is our self-absorption dishonouring God? In our understanding we need to be mature.

Instead of grumbling against the sovereignty of God who uses all things for our good according to His providential power in transforming us into the image of Christ; we lovingly and dutifully turn to the light He has placed in us, remembering we are but clay in the Potter's hands, as He does with us as He wills, and we, with determined faith, fix our minds on worshipping Him, who is majestically beautiful, and infinitely agreeable; then we, knowing His

judgments are perfect and always true, bow down to His flawless training in our righteousness.

The truth is, God Himself in His presence with us is the cure for all our troubles as we walk in the darkness of the world. God is the only fix we need, the world He will fix later when the Lord returns.

We need to stop the chatter and ask ourselves, how are we more like the Son each day as a result of living in His presence together?

Because our sanctification has not been completed, every one of us manufacturers our own favourite method of disconnecting from the presence of God, and therefore from His presence in each other. This is our own little justification in how we privatise our faith while hoping to give the appearance of singular devotion.

As His lights we go into the world with the light of the gospel of Christ

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Matt 5:14-16

'That you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,'

Phil 2:15

"I am sending you, to 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 an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me."

Acts 26:17-18

Only those who are sufficiently compelled by the light and love of Christ will carry out His commands. *'For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that those who live would no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose on their behalf.'*

2 Cor 5:14-15

Walking and living in the presence of God is a corporate affair and can never be totally private. Because Jesus wants to be known and seen in us who live for Him, we need to work together so that those in the darkness can see the benefits of coming to the light of the glory of Christ.

So we pray: Lord forgive us our wrongheadedness, and forgive the lost Lord, we know what we are doing but they do not know what they do. May they receive the knowledge of the light of life in Jesus Christ.

And we shall worship Him. *'One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple. For on the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; He will hide me in the secret place of His tent; He will lift me up on a rock. And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me, and I will offer sacrifices in His tent with shouts of joy; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.'* Psalm 27:4-6

'For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the Lord made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before Him, Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples, Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory of His name; Bring an offering and come into His courtyards. Worship the Lord in holy attire; Tremble before Him, all the earth. Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns; Indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved; He will judge the peoples fairly." Psalm 96:4-10

Let's come before His presence with a song of thanksgiving, Let's shout joyfully to Him in songs with instruments. Psalm 95:2

Living Water Resources

Come to the River

'You cause me to know the path of life; in your presence is joyful abundance, at your right hand there are pleasures forever.' Psalm 16:11

You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, Lord, do I seek." Psalm 27:8

'The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear Him, and He makes known to them His covenant.'
Psalm 25:14

Let's come before His presence with a song of thanksgiving, Let's shout joyfully to Him in songs with instruments. Psalm 95:2

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