

The Light of Life

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“That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephtholim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; **The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.**” (Mat 4:14-16) “And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins, Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, **To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,** to guide our feet into the way of peace.” (Luke 1:76-79)

What is light really? What comes to the mind when the word light is heard? Quite likely you will respond by saying that it depends on the context in which it is used and so it is with most words in our language. But in its simplest original form, basically what is light?

Light is a form of energy which is sensed by most visually able creatures through the eyes. When compared to darkness, light is not the absence of darkness, but rather, darkness is the absence of light. You see, light is the substance in the form of energy, darkness in the result of its absence just as a vacuum is the absence of air.

The following are definitions taken from the website Ask.Com:

1. (physics) electromagnetic radiation that can produce a visual sensation: *"the light was filtered through a soft glass window"*
2. any device serving as a source of illumination: *"he stopped the car and turned off the lights"*
3. the quality of being luminous: *emitting or reflecting light*
4. an illuminated area: *"he stepped into the light"*
5. a condition of spiritual awareness: *divine illumination*
6. a person regarded very fondly: *"the light of my life"*
7. a particular perspective or aspect of a situation: *"although he saw it in a different light, he still did not understand"*
8. mental understanding as an enlightening experience: *"he finally saw the light"*

Interestingly, while the first 3 definitions are derived from the basis of physics, the last 5 seem to have derived from its usage in the Bible. “...**The people which sat in darkness saw great light**”. These people received something they never had, or they could not be said to have sat in darkness. Before they had no light but the light is come and the tense changed to the past tense “sat”. You see light dispels darkness. What is the significance of this light; was it physical light that fits the definitions of 1, 2 and 3? We may get a clue from a careful look into the rest of the verse. “...**and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.**” What is a shadow? Webster’s Meridian Dictionary defines it this way.

5: the dark figure cast upon a surface by a body intercepting the rays from a source of light.

Plainly a shadow is an area from which light is blocked by an opaque object; which usually takes the form of the obscuring object. So in the text it says “...to them which sat in the region and **shadow of death**”. What is it that is obscuring the light? It is death which is obscuring the light or casting a shadow, in which these gentiles were sitting! So then, if a shadow, which is darkness, which is the absence of light, is the shadow of death then the light which is been blocked must be life. For just as darkness is the absence of light so is death the absence of life. Something happened

that caused the obscuring object to be moved, so that this light of life could affect these people who before, sat in the void of it.

We will find what happened when we read the following verses:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.” (John 1:1-5, 9)

“I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.” (John 12:46)

“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

In Genesis 1:3, the very first “Let there be” thing that Jesus the Word spoke into being was: “Let there be light”. So in both sense Jesus is the spiritual light and the creator of physical light. Adam and Eve lost this life and an indication of this was instant nakedness; they suddenly realised that they were naked. Their covering of light was gone the moment they ate of the forbidden fruit. But Jesus Christ came to restore the spiritual light; his life which is the light of men.

“But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel...” (2 Tim 1:10) (Also verse 8, 9)

“Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.” (John 11:9, 10)

“Then Jesus said unto them, ‘Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light’. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them. (John 12:35, 36)

“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God”. (John 3:19, 21)

“But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.” (1 Thess 5:1-6)

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psa 27:1)

“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?” (John 11:25, 26)

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6)

“That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Rom 5:21)

“The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor 15:56, 57)

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:12, 13)

“As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” (John 9:5). *The question is: Is Jesus in the world today? Thank God the answer is yes; He is in his people through power of the Holy Spirit.*

“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Mat 5:14, 16)

The following points are noteworthy:

1. Jesus did not choose to use light as a symbol of His life in an enee mina moo kind of way. He carefully did so for a specific and powerful reason. Notice the very first thing God created after it is said, He “created the heavens and the earth”, was light; the very first “let there be...” was the “let there be light” Gen 1:3. God could have created the worlds without light and in the same way there are creatures which have not eyes, we would be like they, not knowing what light is.
2. Where there is no light, there is darkness; in as much as where there is no life there is death.
3. Jesus did not come, so much to save us from death; He came to gives us life and life more abundantly. We were already dead; existing in the shadow of death.
4. In the same way light dispels darkness, so must the light in us, which is the life of Christ, radiate from within us and reach out and illuminate the darkness of those we encounter everyday, those who are still sitting in the shadow of death.
5. We are sons of the light and of the day, and as the apostle Paul says, we ought to reflect the rays of the Daystar. This is what the word of God means when it says we have the light; we are the light. The light is the life of Jesus; Jesus Himself living in us.
6. As we are extensions of Adam, so is Jesus Christ an extension of His Father, God. As we received the physical life of Adam, so Jesus received the spiritual life of His Father, God, and therefore:
7. As the first Adam passed on what he had, so the 2nd Adam has pass on the divine life, His spirit.

The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.” (Mat 4:16)