



Pure Light Sent

Into Darkness

INTO DARKNESS

**“A COMPOSITE OF TEACHINGS
BY HPIM INTERNATIONAL
TEACHERS”**



Introduction

Harvest Preparation International Ministries is called and established, by the grace of God, to train Christian leaders, to equip them to reach their fullest potential. *The objective is to see followers of Christ raised up to become leaders in their spheres of influence, to see God's Kingdom established in those spheres. This is our mandate and our goal is fulfilled through ...*

"Leaders Training Leaders"

In Matthew we see clearly in the Lord's Prayer, "Thy Kingdom come Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven" The result of His Kingdom coming; being established, brings authentic transformation to the spheres of influence that make up community. The effect of His Kingdom being established in communities can be defined as "Cultural Transformation". (Culture - the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people, or social group)

God intends for us, His followers, to participate with Him, to see families, cities, and nations transformed! We can only participate by embracing His on-going transforming work in our lives personally. HPIM has been carrying a message to leaders for the past several years regarding living as His authentically transformed disciples. What is His purpose for those of us who choose to authentically, transparently follow Him?

*John 1: 1-4 "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 nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the **light of men**. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."*

God sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world as the Light Bearer, and Jesus, the light of men, calls us to walk in His light ...

John 8:12 "Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

... to become His light bearers; His pure light, sent into darkness. This is the message we bring to you this year, in each leadership seminar.

May the messages in this manual reveal to you more clearly, Jesus, the light of men. May they help you to be more thoroughly equipped to carry His light into darkness; overcoming the darkness, seeing your family, city and nation illuminated by His light.

Pure Light Sent

Into Darkness

INTO DARKNESS

THE VALUE AND NECESSITY OF ILLUMINATION



DR. DON RICHTER
Sarasota, FL

THE VALUE AND NECESSITY OF ILLUMINATION

Dr. Don Richter

HPIM Founder/Board Chairman

Type and Shadow of the Real

It is a great blessing and privilege for us to have the scripture that reveals the nature and character of our Father in Heaven and His Son, Who is the physical evidence of the Father's love for mankind.

John 3:16 ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

The Holy Spirit reveals to our spirit that we are the sons of God. The Holy Spirit is God and He is engaged with our spirit, revealing Himself to us. He has inspired and preserved the printed words of scripture that bring life to us. A primary function of the Holy Spirit is to reveal and illuminate; teaching us all things, bearing testimony of the truth. In John's gospel He is referred to as the Spirit of truth.

John 14:16-17 ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

One of the most significant passages in scripture begins with, "in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth". This statement has been the center of many debates over the centuries. Those who are walking in darkness would challenge us to prove that God exists, and that He created the heavens and the earth. Satan has made this the spotlight for a specific reason; that is to discredit the balance of scripture.

Was Light created?

"And God said let there be light" it is important to see that God did not create light, just as He did not create love. The evidence of love not being a created thing is seen in 1st John.

*1st John 4:8 ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, **for God is love.***

John is saying that God IS love. Love is one aspect of Who He IS, His Core Being, that defines His total identity. All that He is and does is rooted in this aspect that He is Love. Another aspect of Who He is, His Core Being, is that of being Light.

James 1:17-18 ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. ¹⁸ Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures

1st John 1:5 ⁵ This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

Therefore, it is impossible to be in the presence of God without love and light having their effect in our created being. The Creator continues to influence the creation of man to be made perfect, as we see in the following passages.

John 17:23 ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

Matthew 5:48 ⁴⁸ Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in Heaven is perfect.

The dynamic of light, in the equation of His creation, must not be overlooked. He determined the significance and importance of each identifiable element in His creation, based on the priority given to each element, as we see in Genesis 1. In the first few verses the writer identifies the conditions, and the intended affect of each aspect of His creation.

The Condition

Matthew 1:1-4 [NKJV]

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without

form,

h8414. תוהו tohû; from an unused root meaning to lie waste; a desolation (of surface), i. e. desert; figuratively, a worthless thing; adverbially, in vain: — confusion, empty place, without form, nothing, (thing of) nought, vain, vanity, waste, wilderness.

AV (20)- vain 4, vanity 4, confusion 3, without form 2, wilderness 2, nought 2, nothing 1, empty place 1, waste 1;

formlessness, confusion, unreality, emptiness formlessness (of primeval earth) nothingness, empty space that which is empty or unreal (of idols) (fig) wasteland, wilderness (of solitary places) place of chaos

and void,

h0922. בֹּהוּ bohû; from an unused root (meaning to be empty); a vacuity, i. e. (superficially) an undistinguishable ruin:— emptiness, void.

AV (3)- void 2, emptiness 1;

emptiness, void, waste

and **darkness**

*h2822. חֹשֶׁךְ ḥśēk; from 2821; the dark; hence (literally) darkness; figuratively, misery, destruction, death, ignorance, sorrow, wickedness:— dark (- ness), night, obscurity
AV (80)- darkness 70, dark 7, obscurity 2, night 1;
darkness, obscurity darkness secret place*

was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

The Solution, for His Purpose

The conditions described in Genesis were not useful for His purpose; not acceptable in His sight. Throughout scripture we see that God is at work in His creation for very specific reasons. In the book of the Revelation we learn that His ultimate purpose is to see the manifestation of the bride of Christ.

Revelation 21:9-11 ⁹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, “ Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.” ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

For God's purpose to be realized in the creation it was necessary for Him to confront the darkness that was on the face of the deep; to transform the condition of the earth to be acceptable for His purpose. The earth was without form and void and darkness was on it. The Key element to bring transformation; to make it acceptable in His sight, we find in Genesis 1:3&4

Then God said, “Let there be light”,

*to give light, shine (of sun, moon, and stars) to illumine, light up, cause to shine, shine to kindle, light (candle, wood) lighten (of the eyes, his law, etc) to make shine (of the face)
h0216. אוֹר 'ôr; from 215; illumination or (concrete) luminary (in every sense, including lightning, happiness, etc.):— bright, clear, +day, light (- ning), morning, sun.
AV (123)- light(s) 114, day 2, bright 1, clear 1, flood 1, herbs 1, lightning 1, morning 1, sun 1;
light light of day light of heavenly luminaries (moon, sun, stars) day-break, dawn, morning light daylight lightning light of lamp light of life light of prosperity light of instruction light of face (fig.) Jehovah as Israel's light*

and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.

h0914. הָבִיחַ ḥāḇāḏal; a primitive root; to divide (in variation senses literally or figuratively, separate, distinguish, differ, select, etc.):— (make, put) difference, divide (asunder), (make) separate (self,- ation), sever (out), x utterly.

*AV (42)- separate 25, divide 8, difference 4, asunder 2, severed 2, sever out 1, separation 1, utterly 1 (inf. for emphasis);
to divide, separate*

The Power of Darkness

The value of Illumination is beyond our ability to comprehend, because we have forever known the blessing of light. A time came when God set in place a process that would reveal that which cannot be seen because of the darkness. Without light the power of darkness causes us not to be able to see what is hidden in that darkness. Often it is easier to live in darkness rather than deal with what is hidden in the darkness. The mysteries of darkness, those things unseen, are generally FLESH MAGNETS. The flesh of man is drawn into darkness and is deceived into believing that living in darkness is “real life” and to accept anything else would cause us to be cheated out of what “life” is meant to give us. This is the pinnacle of deception! In reality those who live in darkness are subject to the prince of the air, subject to the ruler of darkness.

The Evangelism of Darkness

The ruler of darkness has the help of those who are committed and addicted to living in darkness. He continually uses them to rob the innocence of humanity. Even from a young age, those who love the deeds of darkness, continuously urge others to experience the things hidden in darkness, because they are pleasing to the flesh. The airwaves and digital screens are filled with their evangelism propaganda. It seems to clearly be an issue of the blind leading the blind, as we see in Matthew 15.

Matthew 15:14 Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.

He Knew the Value and Necessity of Illumination

God, in all His wisdom, through His Son created all things. In prioritizing the elements of His creation it was necessary for Him to say, “let there be light”. This was not a whimsical feel good kind of statement, but rather one of calculated design, to bring light to darkness to expose what was there. He is the light that exposes the things in darkness.

The Type and Shadow of the Real

As we know, the Old Testament is a type and shadow of “the real” in the New Testament. The desire for a deeper understanding of “the real” seen in the New Testament requires a close look at details given prophetically in the Old Testament. In

this teaching from Genesis 1 our focus is not only on the account of God creating the heavens and earth, but on the principled purpose and prophetic truth for man, and his ultimate destiny in the fulfillment of God's purpose.

The Condition of Man

Let us consider man in his fallen state. He has been, throughout the generations, born into darkness, subject to the control of darkness in his life. Scripture reveals that we represent the prince of the air when we bear the fruit of darkness. Does this not sound like the conditions spoken of in the first chapter of Genesis? Let's read once more what scripture states ...

2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Man is born into the same condition as used to describe conditions when God hovered over the face of the waters in the first few verses of the bible.

The Solution; For His Purpose

The presence of God in His creation moves the darkness to reveal what could not be seen. Likewise, once His light exposes the darkness in humanity, man has the opportunity to know His love and grace, to be transformed and become acceptable in His sight.

John 1:1-5 ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

John's Witness: The True Light

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. ⁸ He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. ⁹ That was the true Light, which gives light to every man coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Walk in the Light

Knowing Him as the Son of God, sent as light into this world, is only the first step. This transforming truth then equips us to live our life as His Light bearers.

John 12:35-36 ³⁵ So Jesus said to them, "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. ³⁶ While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light

To God be the Glory

What a wonderful experience for each of us who were born in darkness to discover that God is in the process of moving that darkness; revealing the light of men; His Son Jesus Christ! So we can be redeemed from our fallen state, be transformed and ultimately be pleasing and acceptable to Him! This journey, discovering that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life is possible, because God said, "let there be light".

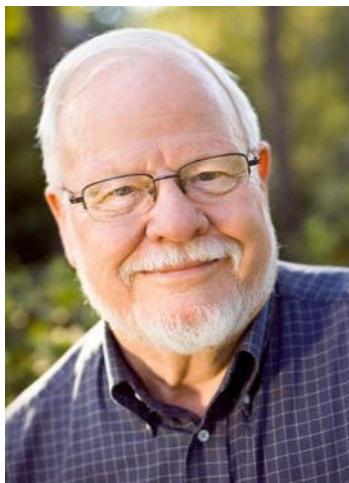
"Father, may we be ever faithful to bring glory to Jesus, Your Son as we experience our life in Him. Through Him, the light of men, may we come to fully realize the fruit of having fellowship with the mystery; Christ in us the hope of glory. May we let our light so shine before men, that they may see our good works and glorify You, our Father in heaven." Amen

Pure Light Sent

Into Darkness

INTO DARKNESS

SCRIPTURAL SURVEY OF LIGHT



DR. FOUNT SHULTS
Myrtle Beach, SC

SCRIPTURAL SURVEY OF LIGHT

Dr Fount Shults
Myrtle Beach, SC

INTRODUCTION

“There is only one fault, only one: our inability to feed upon light” (Pope Paul II, 1995)

“God is Light,” is not the same as, “Light is God.” One is biblical, the other is animistic

Light is a metaphor, yet much more than a metaphor. Metaphor is the only possible language available for spirituality. Metaphor alone is honest about Mystery. It has more meaning, not less—a metaphor is a doorway to all you really need to know.

“The kingdom of God is like a man who found a treasure in a field”

- A. God is light and there is no darkness in him (I John 1:5)

“The Lord make his face to **shine** upon you”

- B. Light is vibrating **energy** in motion with many frequencies
- C. Different frequencies appear as different **colors**
- D. There are frequencies **above and below** what our eyes perceive
- E. **Voice/Word** is also frequencies

SURVEY OF LIGHT IN SCRIPTURE

- A. Light and frequencies in creation

1. Word/Voice is **modulated** frequencies
2. God created by his Voice/Word
3. Light was the **first thing** God created (First day)
4. The sun is only a **lamp**, it is not the light (Fourth day)
5. Light is in some sense an “**incarnation**” of God as Light.
“In [the Word] was **life**, and his life was the **light** of men.” Jn. 1:4

- B. Adam was created in the **image** (what is seen) and **likeness** of God (Sixth day)

1. The image of God is a **relationship** (not static)
2. The Father **loving** the Son, the Son loving the Father by the Holy Spirit
3. By design, Adam and Eve **reflect the glory** of God in their **intimacy**
4. Adam was the **glory [light]** of God with skin on

- C. Moses’ shining face was the **light within** him breaking forth

1. Moses’ **spirit** began to **resonate** with the **glory** of God on the mountain

2. God (as light) was “vibrating” in his Holy Spirit
3. The resonance was so strong it shined through the skin of his face

D. The light of the glory of God in Isaiah (Isa. 60:1-5)

1. **Your** light has come
2. The glory of the Lord has **risen** upon you (cf. Matt. 4:15, Isa. 9:1-2)
3. That glory will be **seen** on you
4. Nations will come to **your** light
5. You will **see and beam** (observe his light and reflect that light)

E. Word became flesh in Jesus Christ

1. His **life** as the Word was the **light** of man
 - a. His **life**, not his teaching, is **light** of the world
 - b. He came to make the Father known by the **narrative** of his life
 - c. His life was **resonating** with his Father who is Light
 - d. **His light is his love**: God is light and God is love
2. **His life of love was the glory of God with skin on** (The second Adam)
3. When he spoke (voice/sound vibration), it was creative for those who heard
 - a. The woman caught in adultery **remained** in the light
 - b. The Pharisees **walked away** from the light
 - c. The woman remained in the light and **received** the light
 - d. “Go and sin no more” creatively **released to shin** with his light

F. Jesus on the mount of Transfiguration = **light shining through his skin Moses’ face** but **Jesus’ whole body** radiated with **God’s light**

1. Flesh could no longer be seen because the light was so bright
2. Jesus is the light of the world; **Light with skin on**
3. His flesh was a Lamp; his spirit was (and is) light

G. The love of God was demonstrated on the cross, but manifest in resurrection

1. Death and darkness were defeated by love/light
2. As we **receive** and live out from the Word, **darkness is defeated in us**
 - a. Our **resurrection experience** increases as **his light** overcomes our **darkness**
 - b. Our ability to **release the light** increases as we defeat our denial
 - c. **Denial** is walking in darkness, **confession** is walking in the light

H. **We are the light of the world**; Light with skin on (Matt. 5:14-15)

1. Our **flesh is a lamp**; our **spirit is light** (We are one spirit with him I Cor. 6:17)
2. **The life of Christ in us is pure light**
 - a. When we **live in resonance** with Father’s love we shine
 - b. Our **failures** do **not diminish** the light unless we fail to receive forgiveness

- c. Our **light** can be **seen** even more **clearly** when we **repent** (His love shows)
- 3. Like Jesus, we are sent as pure light into darkness [denial]: **we are sent to love**
- 4. God desires to cause his light/love to shine through our skin
- I. God as light will be **fully known** as the light of the **renewed creation** [No sun]

LIGHT AS DATA-RICH ENERGY IN MOTION

- A. Quantum mechanics [Going toward **light as a vehicle of communication**]
 - 1. Everything is **energy** vibrating at different frequencies
 - 2. EEG/MRI - a graphic representation of the frequencies
 - 3. Doctors know the frequency of healthy and unhealthy tissue
- B. TV transmission [**Communication of visual and auditory information**]
 - 1. Frequencies on top of frequencies
 - 2. The modulated frequencies are in the air like radio waves
 - 3. The **receiver** (TV or radio) tunes to the frequency of the **transmitter**
 - 4. The TV converts the signal to a picture on the plasma
- C. Fiber optic transmission [**Communication of visual and auditory information**]
 - 1. Light (frequencies) travels through fiberglass rather than air
 - 2. Light can be programmed with modulated frequencies
 - 3. **Data-rich light** (Our life as light is carrying the message **apart from what we say**)
 - a. People “see” our light but don’t know what it communicates
 - b. Science measures “light” coming from many things, including our skin
 - c. Our **words** are useful to **clarify** our “light message”
 - d. If our **words** are in **conflict** with our **life**, His light doesn’t shine [**Idaho story**]
- D. Brain waves and Heart waves (frequencies)
 - 1. The “picture” of brain functions is not a photo, it’s a **reading** of the **frequencies**
 - 2. The brain tells the body how to react by **vibrating electro-chemical signals**
 - 3. The **heart communicates** with the brain electro-chemical signals
 - 4. The heart signals are much **stronger** than the brain signals

GOD COMING ACROSS AS LIGHT

- A. When light shines from a human spirit, it's **God's love** coming across to others
 - 1. The light shines as we love from the heart
 - 2. Others sense when love is pretense or when it has an agenda
 - 3. That's why heart level love is so necessary
- B. When we come, God comes because we are in him and he is in us
 - 1. It's true even if we are **unloving**, i.e., God is there but **doesn't come across**
 - 2. It will not come across to others if we do not love from the heart

LIGHT AS SALVATION

- A. The intent of light shining is for us to **see ourselves**
- B. **Salvation** is coming to be who we **really are**, the image of God in creation
- C. Living in darkness is **denying our true self**

THE WORD AS LIGHT

- A. Word is a vibration
- B. The word **spoken** reveals truth; those who love darkness walk away
- C. The word **received** brings light into our spirit
- D. If we **speak** His Word, **light comes to others**
 - 1. As we **walk in the light**, that light can shine through
 - 2. If we're **not living as light**, **pure light is not present to others**
 - 3. **Words** are carried by the vehicle of our **breath/spirit**
- E. That's why we must guard our heart with all diligence
 - 1. Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks
 - 2. Out of the heart flows the issues of life

Pure Light Sent

Into Darkness

INTO DARKNESS

CHRISTIANS; PURE OR POISON



DR. CHARLES HAMILTON
Columbiana, OH

CHRISTIANS: PURE OR POISON?

Dr. Charles Hamilton
President / Director HPIM

Mt. 5:13-16 You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand; and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Jesus paid us a complement, salt was valuable, even used as a means to barter. Pure salt does not lose its flavor or effectiveness. But when contaminated with gypsum or other minerals it does not taste the same and loses its effectiveness as a preservative.

Job 6:6 Can flavorless food be eaten without salt? Or is there any taste in the white of an egg?

Three Special Qualities of Salt

1. Salt was connected to purity

Lev. 2:13 *and every offering of your grain offering you shall season with salt; you shall not allow the salt of the covenant of your God to be lacking from your grain offering. With all your offerings you shall offer salt.*

- Salt that loses its saltiness becomes poison to the path, killing vegetation, and is walked on and trampled by the world.

2. Salt was a common preservative To prevent spoiling & putrefaction.

- If we are salt, Christians should have a certain antiseptic influence on life.
- Our calling is to defeat corruption, to help people in their journey of faith and stand against spiritual enemies who DENY THE EXISTENCE & LOVE OF GOD!

3. Salt lends flavor to food

- Christianity is to life what salt is to food. Christians lend flavor to LIFE!

Christians must be diffusers of love & joy!

Ways that salt becomes polluted:

- **Anger** Be angry, and DO NOT sin; do not let the sun go down on your wrath.

Cain's Loss Gen. 4:6-7 Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."

Cain had a personal invitation from the Lord to turn away from his anger, but refused. He had to make the right choice but did not. In this verse the language of sin is personified as a demon crouching like a crazed animal at Cain's door. He opened the door and anger consumed him.

Anger, like adultery, and all sin is conceived in the heart before it becomes reality in relationships and life.

Anger like a flat tire or a dirty diaper will NOT fix itself.

- **Bitterness:**

Illustration: Two Christians carrying a woman across the creek. Later one complains, "My back hurts and my clothes are dirty all because of her". The second said, "You know why I am not complaining? Because I set her down on the bank, you continued to carry her".

Like unforgiveness, bitterness is more destructive to the one harboring it, than to the one it is intended for.

- **Critical Spirit:**

Criticism is like spoiled milk it pollutes that which it is intended to enhance.

Criticism & Encouragement both encourage conception: One: death other life!

Proverbs 18:21 *Death and life are in the power of the tongue...*

- **Condemnation:**

Romans 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

God's grace is extended to every believer and the freedom we have received must be freely shared with those who offend, hurt, abuse or otherwise seek to harm us.

Condemnation is a mean spirited attempt to raise ourselves up at the expense of others. Condemnation is not a part of the language of heaven. (Rms. 8:1) Dare we treat others in a way that our heavenly Father does not treat us?

Word of Caution:

Mt. 5:13 *You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.*

Eph. 4:32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

What is the Single Most Important Key to Being Salt & Light?

Relationship with the Father:

Gen. 18:17-19 *And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?*

For I have known him in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord...

V 23 Would you also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

History of Abraham & Lot:

Gen. 13 Abraham honored & favored Lot by giving him choice of the land.

Gen. 14:16 When Lot was captured Abraham rescued him from the five kings who attacked Sodom & Gomorrah

Gen. 18 Intercession for Lot, seeking mercy: **50-45-40-30-20-10**

Gen. 19 Lot's failure to be salt and light to Sodom & Gomorrah had eternal consequences:

- **V1** Lot at the gate when angels come: His Influence!
- **V3** Insisted Strongly they stay at his house. Why?
- **V4** Men, young and old, came
- **V6** Lot's solution, to throw his daughter to the wolves.
- **V9** Lot had brought unloving judgements against city.
- **V14** Voice of warning to sons-laws, they thought he was joking.
- **V17** Go and don't look back.

- **V26** Wife modeling disobedience to the Lord & Lot TURNED TO A PILLAR OF SALT.

QUESTION: WHAT WAS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ABRAHAM & LOT?

Gen. 11:27-28 *Terah begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran begot Lot. And Haran died before his father Terah... (Leaving Lot without a father.)*

ANSWER: Lot did not have the heart of a father because of no father figure in his life. Abraham tried to be a father to Lot, but he would not receive from his Uncle. Unlike Abraham, Lot did not have the Fathers heart for the people of his chosen city.

Closing

Jesus represented the Heavenly Father's heart to his disciples. He showed them the Father. As chosen sons and daughters of the Most High God we are appointed to also reveal the transforming love of the Heavenly Father to all those around us, even our enemies!

Pure Light Sent

Into Darkness

Into Darkness

Part One

**LIVING AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT
IN A DARK WORLD**



DR. CHIDIOGO EZANNAYA

Aba. Abia State, Nigeria

Pure Light Sent into Darkness, Part One
LIVING AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT IN A DARK WORLD

Dr. Chidiogo Ezennaya
Aba, Abia State, Nigeria

Darkness symbolizes Satan's evil domain and the sinful deeds of those who do not obey God. It also represents the spiritual ignorance of those whose sin has blinded their eyes from the light of God's truth (Eph. 4:18; 2 Cor 4:4).

Light pictures the knowledge of the truth that comes when God shines into our lives. As Paul wrote (2 Cor 4:6), "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." Light also pictures the holiness of God (1 Jn 1:5), who dwells in unapproachable light (1 Tim 6:16).

So as believers, we are called to walk in the light, just as He Himself is in the light (1 Jn 1:7), living with every area of our lives exposed to God.

WE ARE TO WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT IN THIS DARK WORLD (Eph 5:8-10).

A. To Walk As Children Of Light, We Must Be Children Of Light

Paul does not say that we used to be in the darkness, whereas now we are in the light, although this is true (Col 1:13; Jn 8:12; 1 Pt. 2:9; 1 John 1:5-7; 2:9). Rather, he says that we used to be darkness, but now we are light in the Lord. Being children of light implies that this profound change comes from God's power in the new birth. It is an act of His creative power.

Just as He at the first created light out of the darkness, so now He has changed us from being darkness itself into being light in the Lord. Paul says that we formerly were darkness. We were spiritually blind. We not only didn't see God's glory and truth, we didn't have the ability or desire to see such things.

But, when God saved us, He opened the eyes of our understanding so that we saw "the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ" (2 Cor 4:6). We had a new understanding of God's Word and a new desire to know God and His truth more and more.

We now hate the sin that we formerly lived in and we long to be like our Savior, holy in all our ways. We now walk in the light, rather than in darkness, because God has made us light in the Lord. To walk as children of light, you must be a child of light by God's saving power.

B. Being Children Of Light, We Must Walk As Such In The Midst Of This Dark World (Eph 5:8b-10).

Just because we are children of light does not guarantee that we will live that way. So Paul says, in effect, "Be what you are!" You are light; now, walk that way! He describes it in four ways:

①. If We Walk As Children Of Light, We Will Be Good.

Paul says (Eph 5:9), “For the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness....” Goodness is one of God’s attributes, so to be good is to be like God. Goodness is a broad term for behavior that benefits others ahead of oneself. A good person is concerned for the well-being of others, both spiritually and in every other way.

②. If We Walk As Children Of Light, We Will Be Righteous.

This refers to conformity to God’s righteous standards, as set forth in His Word. A righteous person is upright before God and before others. He is just or fair in how he treats others.

③. If We Walk As Children Of Light, We Will Be People Of Truth.

We have been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth (Eph 4:24). Thus we are to speak the truth in love (Eph 4:15, 25). We are to be people of our word, maintaining integrity in all things. We shouldn’t have anything to hide, because we walk in the light. We are people of all truth.

④. If We Walk As Children Of Light, We Will Learn What Is Pleasing To The Lord.

We do not determine what pleases the Lord by our own feelings, which fluctuate, or by what the world or other Christians say or think. We don’t even determine it by our own conscience, in that our conscience may be improperly informed. Rather, we learn what pleases the Lord through growing to understand His Word. (Rom12:2).

Living to please the Lord is a fundamental difference between the believer and the unbeliever. An unbeliever may be a good man and even be somewhat righteous or upright, at least outwardly. He may be truthful. But, he does it all out of selfish motives, for his own self-respect, or so that others will think highly of him.

But, only believers live to please the Savior. We have a new personal relationship with this One who snatched us out of a horrible pit. We now evaluate everything we do by the question, “Does this please the Lord, who loved me and gave Himself for me?”

So, the first requirement for living in this dark world is to be children of light and to walk as children of light, doing everything to please the Lord.

2. AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT IN THIS DARK WORLD, WE ARE TO EXPOSE THE DEEDS OF DARKNESS (Eph 5:7, 11-14).

In 5:7, Paul says, “Therefore do not be partakers with them.” Them refers to the sons of disobedience, who are under God’s wrath Eph (5:6). Not being partakers with them is the same thing that Paul explains in 2 Cor 6:14-18:

Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, “I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate,” says the Lord.

“And do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me,” says the Lord Almighty.

Then, in Eph 5:11-12, Paul adds, “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.” We should not be interested in hearing gossip about the movie stars’ latest sexual sins. Such talk should repulse us. Instead, Paul says, we should expose such sins. What does he mean?

In the context, he seems to mean that by our lives (primarily) and our words (secondarily) we expose the unfruitful deeds of darkness for what they are: disgraceful sin in God’s holy presence. Jesus used this word (Jn 3:20) when He said, “For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.” He continues (Jn 3:21), “But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”

In other words, by the obvious difference in how we live, our lives expose the sin of those that are engaging in the unfruitful deeds of darkness. As Paul says (Eph 5:13), “But all things become visible when they are exposed [same word] by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.” That last phrase is difficult, but Paul seems to be arguing that light not only exposes, but also transforms (at least some of the time).

HOW DO WE EXPOSE THE DEEDS OF DARKNESS?

A. We Expose The Deeds Of Darkness By Our Godly Lives As We Maintain Proper Separation From The World.

If we’re no different in our thinking, attitudes, words, and behavior than those that do not know Christ, we have no message to give them. If you profess to know Christ, but you’re not walking in the light; conforming your life to His Word, then please do not let unbelievers know that you claim to be a Christian! If you’re comfortable with your sinful lifestyle, you may not be a genuine Christian. But whether you are or not, don’t link the holy name of the Lord with your disobedient lifestyle (2 Sam 12:14).

But, if you’re walking in the light, you can no longer join in the lifestyle of unbelievers. As 1 Pt 4:3-5 puts it,

For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you; but they will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

As you separate yourself from that kind of sinful lifestyle and live to please the Lord with all goodness, righteousness, and truth, your godly life exposes the dirty lives of those around you.

B. We Expose The Deeds Of Darkness By Our Godly Lives And Words As We Maintain Proper Contact With The World.

Don't go out of the world, or you lose any contact for witness. The Corinthian church was confused about this. They had mistaken Paul's command not to associate with immoral people to mean that they cut off contact with unbelievers. And yet they were welcoming a sinning believer into their fellowship! Paul didn't mean that they should break off contact with the world. Rather, they should cut off contact with any so-called brother who is immoral or sinning (1 Cor 5:9-11). Here are four guidelines to follow as you seek to maintain proper contact with this dark world:

①. Be On Guard—Bad Company Corrupts Good Morals!

You should not be best friends with an unbeliever once you have come to Christ. Your deepest friendships must be with those that share in common a love for Jesus Christ and the things of God. For a believer to enter into a close friendship, business partnership, or marriage with an unbeliever is to violate the clear command that we read earlier (2 Cor 6:14-18). If you do not distance yourself from your former friendships, those godless friends will pull you back into your old way of life. But, what about witness?

②. Be Alert To Your Purpose—To Win The Lost To Christ.

Jesus was known as a friend of sinners, but He did not hang out with them to have a good time. He came to seek and to save the lost (Lk 19:10). He said that He didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance (Lk 5:32). He kept a fine balance that is difficult to imitate: He maintained His holiness and yet He put sinners enough at ease so that they listened to His message.

It is in this sense that we must interpret Eph 5:14 (a difficult verse). Most likely it cites an early Christian hymn based on Ish 60:1, "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you." Paul cites it as an example of the directives he has just given. It pictures the exposure of an unbeliever to the light with a view to his salvation. He is asleep and dead. God calls him to awake and arise, resulting in the light of Christ shining upon him.

It does not imply that dead sinners are able in their own strength to arise from the dead, which would contradict the metaphor. Rather, with the command, God imparts the power to obey, just as when Jesus called out, "Lazarus, come forth!" (Jn 11:43). Light not only reveals sin; it also dispels the darkness. So we can call on sinners to awake and arise, knowing that God may impart the power to obey, resulting in them becoming children of light, with Christ shining on them.

③. Be Sensitive To Show Concern For The Whole Person.

Jesus said (Mt 5:16), "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." Often, of course, we must tell people the message of the gospel. But that message must be backed up with genuine concern for the whole person. If someone is hungry, feed him and tell him about Jesus. The fruit of the light consists in goodness, which means, good deeds that show love for people. In that context we are able to give verbal witness to the gospel.

④. Be Bold To Identify Verbally With Christ When You Are Pressured To Compromise Your Convictions.

This gets back to how you respond to dirty jokes or to someone who wants you to view pornography. Here's the principle: Be as bold in your witness for Christ as the other

person is in his solicitation to evil. If they are bold for Satan, why shouldn't you be just as bold for the Savior? Smile and say firmly, "That offends my Lord," or, "I can't do that." If he presses the matter, say, "I used to love that sort of thing, but now I belong to Jesus Christ and I want to please Him." And share your concern for him that he is under God's judgment, but that Jesus offers him a full and free pardon if he will repent and believe in Christ

Conclusion

The church growth movement tells us pastors that we should make the church a place where unbelievers feel comfortable. So, we're supposed to avoid subjects like sin, righteous living, and the coming judgment. Instead, we're to focus on how to have a happy family, how to do well in business, how to overcome your addictions, and other upbeat topics. In other words, we're not supposed to expose the unfruitful deeds of darkness, so that we don't offend anyone. Just tell them how much God loves them!

But Jesus said that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convict (same Greek word as "expose") the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. Without that conviction, unbelievers will not see their need and flee to the Savior. Forgiven little, they will love Jesus little. Paul's strategy is better: Walk as a child of light, maintaining proper separation from the world and proper contact with the world. As you do, your godly life and words will expose the deeds of darkness. Some will awake from the dead and Christ will shine on them, as He has on you.

Pure Light Sent

Into Darkness

Into Darkness

Part Two

**BRIGHT LIGHTS
IN A DARK WORLD**



DR. CHIDIOGO EZANNAYA

Aba. Abia State, Nigeria

Pure Light Sent into Darkness, Part Two

BRIGHT LIGHTS IN A DARK WORLD

Dr. Chidogo Ezennaya
Aba, Abia State, Nigeria

Jesus, Himself, is light, yet He ministered in the midst of darkness, and to those in darkness He was a great light. As we follow Him, we become surrounded by His light. Although we still inhabit a world filled with darkness, we ourselves, now walk in light.

Though we still live in a dark land, the light of God's glory shines on us, as we follow Him! Not a light away from the darkness, but a light in the darkness. When we follow Him, we are not called to be removed from the darkness, but to walk in His light, as we continue to live in a dark land.

To be a light in the darkness, we must be surrounded by darkness, while walking in the light. We cannot just hang out at church, with fellow believers, any more than Jesus could stay in Heaven, with the Father. To be a light in the darkness, we must connect with the people in darkness, on a personal level.

As a light in the darkness, we also suffer the consequences of darkness such as: hunger, cold, rejection, and temptation. We also live with the effects of a dark world, even as we walk in the light.

Though we are walking in the light of God's glory, we still live in a dark land, and that darkness still affects our lives with sorrow, grief, relational devastation, rejection, illness and temptation.

Continuing to feel the effects of the surrounding darkness is neither accidental nor incidental. This is God's intentional plan for our lives. We are the light of the world. We are called to a ministry of being light in the darkness, and to fulfill that calling it is necessary both to walk in light and to live in a dark land. Light always shines brightest in darkness!

Bright Lights in a Dark World

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt has lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a 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." (Mt 5:13-16)

The light speaks of the testimony of a follower of Christ, revealing and illuminating the truth. You are the light of the world, not the light of the church. That means we have to get beyond the church walls and take the light out to where it is dark. As Christians come together, there is a glow for the Lord that we cannot create individually. We shine brightest when we shine together.

How can we shine for God?

Jesus says that we are to let our lights shine before men in such a way that they will see our good works and glorify God. That's how we do it. We live for God. We have to surrender our lives to Him completely. In other words, when you get right with God and are filled with the Holy Spirit, He will simply shine through you. You can't help it; light just pours forth. Are you willing to burn brightly for the Lord?

Walking as Children of Light.

We live in a hard, dark world, a world that is dominated and driven by sin. In the midst of that darkness and depravity, God has redeemed a people. He has redeemed a people that He expects to be different. He has redeemed a people He has empowered to be different.

HOW WE ARE CHANGED

What We Were - We "were sometimes darkness." This means that we were lost and in the darkness of sin and depravity. We were blinded by the god of this world, according to 2 Cor 4:4. We lived like every other lost person, and we enjoyed it, as seen in Eph 2:1-3. We were enslaved to sin. We knew nothing else. We wanted nothing else. We were lost in the dark and headed to Hell.

What We Are

We "are light in the Lord." When the Lord saved us, He delivered us from darkness. Col 1:13 says, "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son."

When the Lord delivered us from darkness, He set us free from the power of sin. He has changed and made us children of the light. Since we have been changed, we are to walk in light and no longer in the darkness that once characterized us.

Consider Rom 13:12-14, "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."

Our lives once manifested the works of the world, the flesh and the devil. Sin was our way of life. Darkness was where we lived, and what we loved. By the power of grace, the Lord has touched us, saved us, delivered us and changed us. He has brought us out of darkness into His marvelous light. "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light," (1 Pt 2:9).

Since that is true, we are to "walk as children of light." How do we do that? We do that by avoiding sinful thinking and sinful living. We do it by surrendering our all to the Spirit of God, Who will produce within us the "peaceable fruit of righteousness."

We have been changed, and we should live different lives. By the way, this is not something we should have to be constantly encouraged to do. If we are truly saved, and have been truly changed, then holiness should be a way of life for us! (2 Cor 5:17)

HOW WE ARE CHARACTERIZED

These two verses deal with the reality of our spiritual walk. If we are truly saved, and walking in the light, it will be clear from the life we live. Paul says the “fruit of the Spirit” is seen in three ways.

It is seen in Goodness - This word refers to “uprightness of heart and life.” It speaks of godliness in the motives, thoughts and actions. It is the quality of godlikeness. This has also to do with our treatment of others. When we practice “goodness,” we are walking in love to those around us. We are being God-like toward them, as we treat them like God treats us.

It is seen in Righteousness - This word refers to our standing before the Lord. When He saved us, God declared us righteous. He took away all our guilt, imputed the righteousness of Christ to us, and made us holy in His sight. Righteousness is seen in our lives when we live out the reality of who we are, and what we have been made in Christ Jesus. It speaks of a godliness that makes a life as being different and as belonging to the Lord.

It is seen in Truth - This word has to do with honesty, reliability, and trustworthiness. When this quality is seen in the life of a believer, it stands in stark contrast to the hypocritical, deceptive and false ways of the world.

HOW WE ARE COMMANDED

This phrase “have no fellowship” means “do not be a partaker of.” Those who know the Lord should not be a partaker of those things that are evil, even by association. We see in 1 Thess 5:22, we are to avoid all things that are evil. We are to avoid even the appearance of evil.

We have to be in the world. If we are not in the world at all, we cannot witness to the lost. However, we must be careful that we do not allow ourselves to get trapped by the ways of the world. We are to be a separate, holy people to the glory of the Lord.

The kind of sins we are to avoid have been mentioned in Eph 4:25-31, and in Eph. 5:4-6. This is not an exhaustive list of sins we are to avoid. We are to avoid all sin! The depth of our separation is pointed out clearly in 1 Cor 5:9-11

We are to guard our hearts, our minds and our bodies. Sin is all around us, but so is the help of the Spirit of God, seen in 1 Jn 4:4. If we trust Him, He will help us to live lives that are holy and pleasing to Him.

HOW WE ARE COMMISSIONED

Our responsibility to abstain from sin goes farther than simply not doing sinful things. We are commanded to “reprove them.” This means that we are to “expose” evil for what it is. When we are silent about sin, we are guilty of encouraging it. When we ignore sin, we are guilty of promoting it.

The word “reprove” carries the idea of “correction, discipline, and punishment.” It means that we confront sin by refusing to tolerate it. This means that there are times when we must speak out. We must tell others what the Bible says is right and what it

says is wrong. Sometimes our intolerance of sin will be direct, as we deal face to face with those who are involved in sinful activities.

At other times, our reproof of wickedness will be indirect. That is, we do the opposite of what the world around us does, and God uses that to rebuke them for their error. They are selfish, but we are giving. They curse, we bless. They live for self, we live for God and for others. They lie, we speak the truth. Simply living for the Lord is a powerful testimony in the face of evil.

One of our problems is the fact that we don't take sin seriously enough. We wink at it. We laugh about it. We see those around us who are engaged in sin, and we fail to confront. We just don't take sin as seriously as we should. While we would never do many of the things those around us do, we enjoy them from a distance. Thus, we were still contaminated by it, because we refuse to take a stand against sin and rebuke it.

Scripture tells us that it is a shame to talk about the things the world does. We love to hear a juicy bit of gossip, don't we? We talk about the sins of others, passing it around from ear to ear. God says somethings are to be handled with as few words as possible. To talk about their sin in a way that spreads it all over the place is a shameful thing. I sometimes think we talk about sin like we do because we secretly want to do the things others are doing. God says that it is a shame for us to do that!

Scripture also tells us how to handle sin. We handle sin by taking every action and exposing it to the light of the Word of God. We are to hold it up to the Bible, and if the Bible is against it, we are to be against it too. If the Bible is for it, we are to be for it. The Word of God alone is to be the standard for our lives.

Light makes things "manifest," or "easy to see." When we walk in the light, it makes the evil of the world around us easy to see. The children of God should walk so holy, so clean, and so close to God that we stand out as beacons of light in a dark world.

As we lift up truth and expose sin, not everyone will be happy. Still, it honors the Lord and is a far better advertisement for Him than a life which partakes of the sins of the world.

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a 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." (Mt 5:14-16).

We are commissioned to be different. When we are sin is exposed, the Gospel is magnified, and God is glorified. Those are reasons enough to walk in the will of God!

HOW WE ARE CALLED

Paul closes this section with an invitation for the lost to come to Jesus for salvation. If they will simply wake up, and come to Jesus, He will save them and give them light. He is calling the lost people who might have been in that congregation to come to Jesus for salvation. That is a call that still goes out today. If you are lost, you can be saved. The Lord will change your life, deliver you from, darkness and fill you with His light.

There is also a call here for believers to wake up. We have wandered through this world in a spiritual slumber for far too long. It is time we woke up and got about the Savior's business. When we do, we will be light to a world trapped in darkness. It may just be that the Lord will use that light to save sinners.

Here is how Paul said it elsewhere: "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof," (Rom 13:11-14).

The church needs to heed that today! The world needs the light we have to show them. It is the Lord's will that His children be light in a dark world. It is the power of His light within us that will highlight the differences between us and the lost world around us.

Pure Light Sent

Into Darkness

INTO DARKNESS

A LOVE RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE FATHER OF LIGHTS



REV. AJ BAISCH
Myrtle Beach, SC

A LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER OF LIGHTS

Pastor AJ Baisch

Myrtle Beach, SC

Gen 1:3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

Gen 1:4 God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

The goodness of light is an obvious metaphor for us to understand because of the basic natural workings of God's creation. Light is the power that overcomes darkness and darkness cannot hide from the light.

1Jn 1:5 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.

What we want to discover is the personality of light, because light is much more than illumination; the light of God has distinct characteristics, and wherever the light is, there also is God.

Light carries a message; it does not wait for you to explore what you could not see in the darkness then wait for you come to your own conclusions. Light gets in your personal space with TRUTH; and truth always comes in the form of LOVE...

The greatest FREEDOM we will ever be illuminated with is His LOVE, because every illumination that proceeds from God not only carries TRUTH but also LOVE. The three are inseparable; TRUTH, FREEDOM AND LOVE; you can't have one without the other. LIGHT, in the personhood of Christ, is always working toward your freedom; and how you personally perceive God working in your life in truth and love, and that will ultimately determine how much freedom you enjoy.

Eph 5:8&9 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light **(9)** for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth,

Walking as "children of light" means you have come to the first realization of what God wants to expose you to; that YOU MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU ARE IN A LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER OF LIGHTS....

Jas 1:17&18 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. **(18)** In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

Notice that the Father of lights brought the "Word of Truth" that first word of truth for almost everyone is, "you are loved".

Nothing; absolutely nothing, will pierce the darkness in your thinking more than the truth of His love for you. There is no darkness that can overwhelm you when standing in the discipline of the knowledge of His love for you... Let's pursue that penetrating truth as your own possession.

One of the best allegories in scripture for you to grasp the truth of His love and freedom is the Song of Solomon

SS 2:4 He has brought me to His banquet hall and His banner over me is love.

The primary purpose of this scripture is to shine forth the truth of God's love ... Jesus is a pursuer of love ... your love ... and that opens the doorway for genuine freedom. First of all, recognize that you didn't find the banquet hall "He has brought me" by divine invitation; and it is because you are ready for the exposure of His love to transform who you are. The penetration of that truth in light finds the darkest thoughts and experiences ... Christ has found you and He cares!

Oddly, "banquet hall" in Hebrew means "effervescent intoxication" the point being that there is an intoxicating type of love that God introduces you to that can be overwhelming.

Have you heard the phrase, "being overcome by the Spirit"? Personally I believe it is the experience of being exposed to an intoxicating, overwhelming love that surpasses everything else going on in your life at that moment. The power of that illuminating experience changes us; emotionally and spiritually, there is nothing equal to what being exposed to His love does to us. It cannot be compared to anything in this life.

His love changes your personality by changing the way you think. **Eph 4:23** "and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,"

The other issue in this verse is the "Banner" that is over you.

As we look at the Shulammitte woman we discover that she describes herself as ordinary and not very special.

SS 2:1 "I am the rose of Sharon, The lily of the valleys."

"A rose of Sharron" Sharron is a field where David grazed his livestock, the cultivated rose did not exist for many hundreds of years. What scripture is referring to was probably something called a "Saffron" which was abundant and the common white trumpet lily; two plain and ordinary flowers of the field. Like us she was not, in her estimation, anything special.

The King ignores her comments about herself and counters with **SS 2:2** "Like a lily among the thorns, so is my darling among the maidens."

I can't help but identify myself as not being worthy of His attention ... of course this is one of the main exposures to the truth of how Christ views us.

In chapter 1 she reveals her social status and that life is a bit of a mess; **SS 1:6** "Do not stare at me because I am swarthy, For the sun has burned me. My mother's sons were angry with me; they made me caretaker of the vineyards, but I have not taken care of my own vineyard".

She has been forced to do manual labor, in other words she is not queen material. She has not taken care of herself; her personal life has not had the attention that a virtuous maiden would have had. This bride has her beauty, but she has not lived a life of privilege, rather her life has been hard.

This speaks to most of us who have discovered the light of truth concerning His intentions towards us. Like us she views herself as having little to offer the King, but none the less He is a pursuer.

Light is not afraid of your darkness

As we look at the banner we realize that it is making a statement. There is something waving over her and it is making a clear announcement for all to see - not only for you to see but also the enemies of your soul ...

IT CONVEYS DESIRE AND INTENT

"And His banner over me is Love"

This statement should enhance your understanding like a lightning bolt from the heavens; it should illuminate every dark intent that has been directed your way from the beginning of your earthy existence up to this very moment. Now that light of truth about who you are will be carried into everlasting eternity. The truth of His love will cut through the darkness of life, igniting a flame that has the power to take you out of the kingdom of darkness into His glorious light!

Mt 4:16 "THE PEOPLE WHO WERE SITTING IN DARKNESS SAW A GREAT LIGHT, AND THOSE WHO WERE SITTING IN THE LAND AND SHADOW OF DEATH, UPON THEM A LIGHT DAWNED."

I must confess that there are times that my soul and spirit wants to hide in the past; but the piercing truth of His light will not allow me to remain there. Because His love for me, and His love for you, is so great His infallible light of truth will always be working in us to **MAKE US FREE Jn 8:32**

Pure Light Sent

Into Darkness

INTO DARKNESS

THE POWER OF LIGHT



REV. BETTY KULICH
Columbus, Ohio

THE POWER OF LIGHT

Rev. Betty Kulich
Columbus, Ohio

Genesis 1:1-4 (NKJV)

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **2** The earth was without form (meaning to lie waste, full of chaos, worthless or a desolation), and void (meaning to be empty); and darkness (having no light) was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering (brooding as a hen would do with eggs) over the face of the waters. **3** Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. **4** And God saw the light that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.

LIGHT was the first thing that God gave to the earth. Of all the things God could have given first, He chose light. From the moment God spoke, "Let there be light", light has been a part of this world. That light was not invented for a dark world but rather God shared an aspect of His nature and Being. He shared His glory. He turned the countenance of His face towards a dark world and let His glorious light shine out to that dark world. I like to think of it as God's first smile towards us. Psalms 4:6 (NKJV) **6** There are many who say, "Who will show us any good?" Lord, lift up the light of Your countenance upon us. Throughout the scriptures, there are numerous references to God's Glory and countenance as Light. God is so full of glory and light that the Psalmist describes it as a garment. Psalms 104:1-2 **1** Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty, **2** Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment. In Revelation we are told that the Lamb will be the light for heaven. Revelation 21:23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light and this Lamb was present at the creation (John 1). So from the beginning throughout eternity, His light will never diminish. It will always be with us.

LIGHT, because of it, we can see and have enlightenment. Psalms 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light. Light has the power for us to see what we were not able to see before. Ephesians 1:18 (Amplified) By having the eyes of your heart flooded with light, so that you can know and understand the hope to which He has called you, and how rich is His glorious inheritance in the saints (His set-apart ones). Because of this light, people can have veils removed. 2 Corinthians 3:16-18 (NLT) **16** But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. **17** For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. **18** So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image. Veils are those areas covered or hidden from us by the devil. They are areas that prevent us from growing into an authentic disciple. They can keep us in bondage to our flesh. Veils can cause us to believe lies about ourselves, our situation and lies about others. Veils can keep us from seeing and feeling the love that God has for us. When enlightenment comes, we are able to see our destiny, or see hope for the end of a difficult season in our life. Light can bring knowing and understanding. Light and its enlightenment can show us our rich inheritance.

LIGHT brings the power of life with it. We all know that light is what makes plants and living things grow. The more there is light the larger is the potential for the plant to grow. Life comes from light. John 1:1-4 (Amplified) **1** In the beginning [before all

time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself. **2** He was present originally with God. **3** All things were made and came into existence through Him; and without Him was not even one thing made that has come into being. **4** In Him was Life, and the Life was the Light of men. Light and life are forever as one because of Christ. Bringing Christ to any dark place or situation will always result in light and life. That is why we are to become carriers of the light of God. John 12:36 (NLT) Put your trust in the light while there is still time; then you will become children of the light.” Ephesians 5:8-9 **8** For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! **9** For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.

LIGHT is all powerful and cannot be diminished by darkness. John 1:5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

- (New Living Translation) The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it
- (The Message) The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out.
- (Amplified Bible) And the Light shines on in the darkness, for the darkness has never overpowered it [put it out or absorbed it or appropriated it, and is unreceptive to it.

Think about the power of light. Light from a city can be seen from space, thousands of miles away. You can be in a room that is totally dark and strike a match or turn on your cell phone and have enough light to navigate out of the dark room. When you turn on a light switch, darkness instantly retreats. Darkness cannot stop light, diminish light or even hold its own against the light. Darkness has to retreat and bow to the power of light each time they meet. Darkness can only exist when light is not present. As children of light (Ephesians 5:8) we are to be carriers of His light. These are powerful thoughts for us to consider as we move toward advancing His kingdom.

When God shared a part of Himself with the earth in Genesis, light immediately began its transforming work of power. While the earth was without form (meaning to lie waste, full of chaos, worthless or a desolation), and void (meaning to be empty) and in darkness (having no light), the Spirit of God was hovering (brooding as a hen with her eggs) over the face of the waters. Preparation and receptivity for all that would come on the following days was being created. Chaos was being calmed. Worthlessness and all desolation were being neutralized. Emptiness was being prepared for fullness.

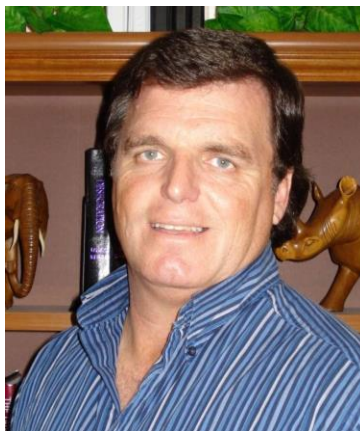
This power of light to transform has never changed or diminished in its ability or mission. What God shared of Himself - His glorious light - is still all powerful and at work waiting, hovering, and brooding to transform darkness, chaos, desolation, worthlessness and emptiness. This power that we now carry is just waiting to come forth to transform a life, a family, a city, a nation. So let the power of light – His light in you – shine forth to a world overshadowed by the darkness.

Pure Light Sent

Into Darkness

INTO DARKNESS

**SENDING PURE LIGHT INTO
DARKNESS**



REV. RANDY THURMAN
Boone, NC

SENDING PURE LIGHT INTO DARKNESS

Rev. Randy Thurman
Boone, NC

Genesis 1:2-4

“And the earth was waste and empty, and darkness was on the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light. And there was light. And God saw the light that it was good; and God divided between the light and the darkness.

In our world today it is fair to say that there are two primary worldviews. The view of the Atheist, which is said to be based on scientific discovery and evidence deduced from it. The other is the view of the Theist, based upon belief in God and ancient writings of scripture. The atheist does not believe in God and refutes the fact that there is any intelligent design behind the cosmos. Instead, they teach that only matter exists, and the world, as we know it, came from an explosion millions of years ago called the Big Bang Theory. Incidentally all the mass energy that was required to produce such a big bang came from “nothing!” In other words, “it just happened” by “random selection”. In our day Institutions of “higher learning” in Europe and the United States are teaching this theory as fact, labeling people who don’t agree as ignorant and uneducated. They want everyone to accept that all the order and intricate design existing in the heavens, and on earth; even in our own bodies is basically an accident. I think such assertions are preposterous! The scriptural teachings of Christianity are not only more reasonable, but indeed more rational than the unbelief of the atheist. As Christians we believe there is an intelligent God behind the creation of the universe and if in fact there was a “big bang” millions of years ago, it happened when God released His word into the void and created the heavens and the earth. I recommend a book on this subject called *I Don’t Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist* published in 2004 by authors Norman Geisler and Frank Turek.

Genesis 1:2-4 makes several points I want us to consider; about God’s actions and demeanor, and the impact that light has on the present darkness. First, notice that God doesn’t seem to be moved by the existence of the darkness. There is no sense of panic or wonder on His part. As a matter of fact, He doesn’t even say anything about the darkness. The question is why? I can think of at least three reasons.

1) According to **Psalms 139:12** *“Even the darkness is not dark to You, and the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You.”* This verse tells us that God has the ability to see darkness as though it were light. For this reason He can never be deceived, because just His glance will penetrate through the deepest darkness.

2) We read in **1 John 1:5** *“God is light; and in him there is no darkness at all...”* God’s entire being is light; therefore whenever His presence is manifested it illuminates whatever it touches. We can see an example of this in Isaiah 6 when Isaiah was caught up to the throne room. He not only saw God’s glory but he also saw himself in “a whole new light”.

3) Perhaps most importantly **Psalms 119:130** – *“The entrance of your word gives light...”* God knows the power of His creative word has to conquer darkness...there is

no struggle! The opposition has no hope of prevailing because darkness is no match for light. Did you notice that the moment God said “let there be light” the darkness was no longer an issue. He, as it were, turned on the light and the darkness had to flee. The impact that the light had on the darkness was to dispel or cause it to dissipate. The light then took over the space where the darkness had been. Also note in vs:4 , “*God separated the light from the darkness*” meaning that the darkness continued to exist but only where the light wasn’t shining. Therefore, from a natural perspective it is true to say that darkness is simply an absence of light.

To bring these truths closer to home and apply them to our lives there is more we must consider, because all natural analogies don’t equate perfectly with spiritual reality. Consider; the bible speaks of a spiritual or unseen realm; where there are intelligent forces which scripture calls the “powers of darkness”. These forces or spirit beings (*most scholars agree they are fallen angels*) are endeavoring to perpetuate the darkness. So the darkness, in this case is more than just the absence of light. Therefore, it stands to reason that when a believer “speaks light into the darkness” there will be opposition to what he says. The enemy will seek to intimidate him and convince him that the darkness has more power than the light. This conflict is not merely a mental fabrication; it is a real conflict, even though it is unseen.

James 4:7 teaches us regarding this conflict “...resist the devil and he will flee from you.” The resistance is based upon knowing what Jesus did in defeating Satan at Calvary, and also knowing our identity in Him. It is critical to know “who you are in Christ” as the Apostle Paul teaches. Then you will properly discern what things to submit to and what things to resist. There are many Christians today, who believe that God is in control of everything that happens and in order to be humble they must submit to whatever comes their way, hoping that it all works out well. In my estimation, this attitude is not biblically sound and is certain to lead to defeat. Why? Because passivity gives the devil room to interfere and to take what doesn’t belong to him. Rather, we are taught in **Ephesians 4:27** “...neither give place to the devil.” One translation states- “...don’t give the devil any opportunities.” The reference in this text is to YOU... You give the devil no place! You oppose him! God doesn’t do that for us; we must stand and resist him. Beloved, Jesus knew the will of His Father and readily submitted to those things, but He vehemently resisted the things that were not God’s will. For example: He submitted to death on a cross because it was in His Father’s plan, but He would not submit to death at the hands of a storm or when the people tried to throw him off a cliff. Jesus resisted those things because He discerned the difference between His Father’s will and what the devil was doing. We are to have this same discernment. However, in order for that we need to be “skilled in the word of righteousness” to “discern between good and evil”. **Hebrews 5:13-14**

This requires that we know our true identity in Christ. We learn in **Ephesians 5:8** “For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.” Notice Paul says, “you were darkness,” which suggests that this was your condition before you were saved. The past tense of his statement leads to this logical conclusion; you are no longer darkness, but instead “you are light in the Lord.” This is Paul’s message; the long night of sin and despair is over and you are now a child of the light. The God who is light has translated you out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of the Son of His love! This is your new identity in Christ, whether you were

saved yesterday or 40 years ago. You are now *"light in the Lord"* because the light of life (Jesus) is living in you and you are one with Him!

Though you may be facing some dark situations in your life they do not define who you are. People often think that because they are going through difficulties that there must be something wrong with them, but that's just another trick of the enemy. He wants to pull you into the darkness and get you to focus on all your shortcomings so you spend all your time trying to fix yourself. My friend that is the wrong way to go. So what should we do or how should we respond? **Psalm 119:130** in another translation says -*"Your word is a doorway that lets in light, and it helps gullible people understand."* I like that because I have certainly been gullible at times in my life. The solution then is to speak the word, as God did, into the darkness. Don't give more credence to the dark circumstances in your life than you do to the light of the word. No matter how bad the situation or how dark it may seem, the answer is always to speak and believe the word of God. For when you speak the word of God, light comes into your darkness and you can now see the truth of what is really happening. In Genesis 1, God never quantified the darkness, or described it, or called a committee in heaven to discuss it, He just spoke "light to be and light was". When we do that it takes our eyes off our circumstances and ourselves and puts them squarely on the Lord where they belong. This will insure *"the victory that overcomes the world"* that rightfully belongs to every CHILD OF LIGHT!



455 Interstate Court, Suite B, Sarasota, FL 34240

941-341-0485

hpimnetwork@gmail.com

Website: www.hpim.org