

Light of the World who stepped down into darkness

God, the light of the World

1 John 1:5

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

Light is the very nature and character of God. He is light itself, where all light comes from Him. Therefore, light was the very first thing that God created (Genesis 1:1-3) filling the formless and empty earth with His very essence, with Himself. As He filled that space with Himself, darkness was dispelled leaving God to create a wonderful World within Himself which God saw was good.

1 Colossians 1:15-17

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Unfortunately, God's creation did not stay good for long. Due to Adam and Eve's sin the ground was cursed by God (Genesis 3:17). It became marred by darkness. From then on Mankind has constantly struggled to live within God's light and goodness for them. Darkness has been a constant pull where an egocentric life has been very appealing, and we have suffered the consequences as a result.

Darkness represents everything that is the opposite of God. It is death, suffering, pain, struggle, pride, selfishness, evil, distress, ignorance, sorrow etc. On the other hand, the light, God Himself, is holy, righteous, pure, just, good, truth, joy, life, divine revelation etc. Fortunately, God had a plan to free Mankind from darkness, where, His light would flood the earth once again, the darkness would be pushed back, everyone would be taught to live in the light and He will aid them to do so.

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

2,000 years ago a baby was born in Bethlehem. Not just any baby but the Light of the World. God Himself became man. There was no darkness within Him. Jesus shone God's light. As sunlight reveals the dust in a house, so Jesus' light revealed the truth of people's hearts. In His 33 years on earth He was tempted in every way (Hebrews 2:18, 4:15) but did not sin. Light was born into the World and He remained living in the light until He was sacrificed upon the cross.

For three hours during daylight darkness fell over the earth (Luke 23:44-45). All through Jesus' life on Earth He enjoyed a perfect intimate relationship with God the Father because He was Light and lived in the Light. However, upon the cross Jesus, God the Son, was made to stand before God the Father intentionally, and willingly the beholder of sin. Darkness surrounded Jesus. God the Father could not bear the sight and Jesus was abandoned, consumed by the dark sin of the world.

Isaiah 53v6 "The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all".

2 Corinthians 5v21 - "...God made him who had no sin to be sin for us..."

1 Peter 2v24 - "He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree..."

As God turns away from His Son, the awful darkness of desertion made Jesus feel distraught. All that used to comfort Him was withdrawn, and all that could distress Him was piled upon Him. It was this that reduced Jesus to the piercing cry. The lowest depth of the Saviour's grief. Jesus was forsaken, abandoned, isolated in darkness. He died a sinner's death.

Praise God that the darkness could not hold Him. He is Light, more powerful than the dark. He overcame death, breaking the power of sin, and rose again victorious. We are told that when Mary Magdalene saw Jesus after the resurrection He looked like lightning (Matthew 28:3). The Light of the World is alive!

You, the Light of the World

John 8:12

"I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness but will have the Light of life."

Matthew 5:14-16

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ In the same

way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, dwells within those who choose to follow Him by faith (2 Corinthians 4:6-7, Colossians 1:27). Thus, Jesus calls Christians the light of the world.

In Jesus' day houses were made with white limestone, so that they gleamed in the sunlight. When darkness fell, each home would light a lamp which would be placed in a prominent high place so everyone would get maximum benefit from the light. This light would shine through the window so that one could see the city on a hill from miles around. The city could not hide day or night. As you are the light of the world, you are also to shine. We do this by allowing Jesus within us to shine through us so that He who is in us can continue to reveal the truth, shine into people's lives revealing the dust, bring people out of darkness into His light, and teach how to walk in the light. We are not to hide Jesus' light within us under a bowl but in every situation we are to be a Beacon for Him!

We live in a world of people watching, hence why so many people love reality T.V. People love to sit on the judgement seat and make critical judgements on character, behaviour, skill etc. And as soon as someone gets it wrong we hear about it, just think about how the media has reacted towards politicians over recent years. In a world that sits on the judgement seat and watches, our actions and deeds are important. They speak louder than words, and if our words do not match our deeds then people do not want to know. Fortunately, the voice of the world is not the true Judge. We walk in God's light knowing how He sees us is truth. You carry the light of Christ within you because God loves you and deems you worthy of His grace. You are unique, special, precious, and highly prized.

God understands that we struggle to walk according to His will, therefore, you who is the light of the world is called to maintain a close intimate relationship with Him. Not to walk in the darkness but to walk in His light and be filled with His light by knowing Him, seeking truth and wisdom through His Word, and living according to His ways by grace. Then His light can shine through you, aiding you to be a credible witness in the world. To be loving, faithful, God-honouring, trustworthy, sincere, honest etc in all that you say and do.

Ephesians 5:8-11

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

1 John 1:6-7

If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Conclusion

Coronavirus has forced us into the community where we should be. I am hearing stories of new relationships being created, like with our neighbours, but many are hurting, bewildered, mourning. Jesus calls you to shine His light to dispel the darkness. To be His beacons, shining His light into the society around us, thus revealing the truth. First though, don't forget to ensure you are spending time being with God, in intimacy, so it is Him who shines from you.

I leave you with this great rendition of Matthew 5:14-16 from The Message:

"Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.