

New series I Am....Today take a look at Jesus statement that He is the light of the World...

JN 8:12A When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world(plural)....

When we think of light, we right away think of the sun. We've been taught that the sun is the center of the solar system and thus it is the light of the world.

Some figures reveal the sun's greatness. For instance, The Sun is the most prominent feature in our solar system. It is the largest object and contains approximately 98% of the total solar system mass. One hundred and nine Earths would be required to fit across the Sun's disk, and its interior could hold over 1.3 million Earths. The sun is 93,000,000 miles from the earth. If a baby would start flying to the sun at birth and travel 150 miles per hour, this baby would be nearly 71 years old upon arrival. Also, astronomers estimate that the diameter of the sun is 109 times that of the earth. Its output of energy is 70,000 horsepower per sq. yd. per minute. Lastly, the temperature at the sun's surface is about 11,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

The Sun is the most prominent feature in our solar system. It is the largest object and contains approximately 98% of the total solar system mass. One hundred and nine Earths would be required to fit across the Sun's disk, and its interior could hold over 1.3 million Earths. The Sun's outer visible layer is called the photosphere and has a temperature of 6,000°C (11,000°F). This layer has a mottled appearance due to the turbulent eruptions of energy at the surface.

Solar energy is created deep within the core of the Sun about 10,000 miles from the Sun's visible surface. The gas fountains form arches, hundreds of thousands of miles high, capable of surrounding 30 Earths. As gas emerges from the solar surface, it's heated and rises, then cools and crashes back to the surface at more than 60 miles per second. This reation expells energy and is carried to the surface of the Sun, where it is released as light and heat.. Every second 5 million tons of pure energy is released; therefore, as time goes on the Sun is becoming lighter.

But the sun, in spite of its greatness, is not the "Light of the World." The "Light of the World" is the Son of God.

John 1:1 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. Light is life...in him there is the light of life for man!

Jesus declared himself to be such. with one bold stroke declared,

JN 8:12A When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world(plural)... *JN 8:12B* ...Whoever (singular) follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the *light of life*."

So let us ask ourselves, "Has the Son, Jesus Christ, had a great impact or influence on my life like that of the sun that shines on the earth?"

- You know it is interesting
- that when night comes and the sun's light is not seen we never doubt that morning will come..
- or when the light of the sun is covered by clouds and we experience storms...we never doubt that the sun is still in the sky and will shine again...

and yet it is so easy for people to ask...where is God? when the light of God is sometimes covered by the storms of life... Lets examine some traits of light...

First...light is meant to be seen...it reveals...Light reveals truth. It reveals truth about ourselves.

□ Dallas Willard states: "Almost all evil deeds and intents are begun with the thought that they can be hidden by deceit." The kingdom of evil is built on lies, secrets, and darkness. It requires the absence of light to survive. Thus, for all its fearsome appearance, the kingdom of evil is structurally very weak. Turn on the light, and the cockroaches scramble to go under the refrigerator.

Mark 4: 22 For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. *23* If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."

Secrets Are Temporary, You Can Count On The Light

- We never see ourselves truly until we see ourselves in the context of Christ.
- Sometimes it is hard to admit some of our imperfections, but when we compare ourselves to Christ and his Word we are confronted with our true selves.
- We are sinners in need of a Savior. It takes a good deal of humility to receive the light.

Secondly, light can be repulsive. If you turn over a log in the woods, bugs will scurry everywhere, not because they fear you, but because light is repulsive to them. In the same way, the light of truth can be repulsive.

"It was this very quality of light that our Lord so vividly described in John 3:19-21

JN 3: 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God

does the call of Jesus and the truth of his Word repulse you in any way? Is there some evil, some sin in your life you don't want to admit? Jesus will not let you off the hook. He is the Light.

The light affects us in a third way. The light causes growth. As we take in the truth and the presence of Jesus, we grow and mature just as plants need sunlight to grow. The presence of Jesus in us changes us and purifies us. We blossom with godly character. We become rooted in the truth to withstand the storms of life and every wind of doctrine. And inside we are filled with joy, and thankfulness, and peace.

- Because there are things in me it is better for you not to follow... I won't brag about my failings and neither will I act like I have none...

JAS 5: 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

The fourth way the light affects us is that it gives reassurance. Like the light of the sun which warms us creating a place of peace, Jesus, the Light, brings us to a place of peace. We gain peace because the burden of sin is lifted and the path through life and to our eternal home is clear and sure and all mapped out for us. We are secure our path is lit...

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

- **The world, our country, our cities, our neighbor's lives of insecurity and fear about their path and their future.... as Jesus says we must be a light to them**

MT 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city 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 men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

- **Jesus states what his followers are... his followers are what he claimed himself to be...**
- When Jesus stated that his followers were lights to the world he said they were to be like him to the world Jesus goes on to explain some things about light...

Jesus goes on to explain some things about [our light](#)...

One ... we are the lamp but the lamp is lit by someone else... Jesus the lighter... the lamp does not light itself it is lit by another...

Two it is not lit to be hid...but to be visible..

Explain light in a roman/Jewish household...

- Oil fired lamps are critical in a land without electricity...in America we do not appreciate this fact ...but much of the world would.
- Lit once and then stayed on all the time or transferred the light while the oil was refilled...when they left the house the lamp was placed under an earthen shelter..kept lit...but used to avoid accidental fire...

The world is still in great need of light... **So Jesus is saying that we are light to this world we are meant to be visible...interesting because sometimes we try to be invisible...**

light reveals..light guides

- because there are thing in me it is better for you not to follow...
- I won't brag about my failings and neither will I act like I have none...
- Light, illuminates darkness, directs and lights the way, brings clarity, use the example of a little light...candle...light dispels darkness wherever it is placed...
- it not dependent on how big the light is...
- for a little light will draw attention in a larger dark room....
- We do not have to be a huge beam give light...we just have to be light...
- And a light first causes a shrinking back when it is lit in a dark place...
- Our tendency is to blows ourselves out...so as not to offend, people please, fear of what they will think of us...
- But if we stay lit...we will in time begin to draw people to it...they will get curious
- We are not the source of the light...we are the candles...we hold the light...

but there is a principle at work here... the more light principle....

*LK 8:16 "No one lights a lamp and hides it in a jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, he puts it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light. ¹⁷ For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open. ¹⁸ Therefore consider carefully how you listen. **Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken from him."***

- **the light in a follower of Jesus will give off more light over time or less light over time...**

- depends on what is hidden or not disclosed...and brought out into the open...
- you see God's light working in us reveals that which is still in darkness...and as the light disclose discloses those areas and lights up that in our lives ...
- our lights shines better in te world we live in...
- and the opposite is true...
- The change in Paul...required....God, Jesus, the Holy spirit...people, elders. trouble ...reflection...learning, solitude....change

Just as Paul had to make major changes in his new life in Christ ...so to us...

AS Paul identifies in himself...

*PHP 3:12 Not that I have already obtained all this (possess it), or have already been made perfect (reached perfection), but I **press on (intentionally push forward)** to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting (not living like I used to) what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I **press on** toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. The prize...life eternal...in union with God, himself and others...*

PHP 3:15 All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

- So the immature thinks complete change is done in a flash by God...without our effort...or the help of others...they are wrong on all counts...
- Perhaps you think...God does all your maturing...or you do alone ...or God and you alone...
- Understand this we grow in committed relationship to God and others older helping the younger ... with continual effort on our part.
- **it takes a long time to reach you potential in Christ ...**

Jesus said you guys are the real deal...you are light to this world...so let what you are be displayed.... second step is Baptism! end