

As I was writing this, a wind stormed howled outside. As a result, our home momentarily lost electricity. It flashed off and back on again and I was reminded of how much I'd hate to live without the power which provides our home with light. I like electricity and the conveniences it brings us, but what I discovered during those power outage days is that I really like “light”. I'm not a fan of darkness. That's one of the reasons I really love the description of Jesus as light.

Jesus said, “I Am The Light of the World”

In the Gospel of John, chapter 8, a woman caught in sin was brought to Jesus. Her accusers wanted to throw stones at her and wanted Jesus to agree with their harsh judgements of her. Jesus refused to condemn her and instead extended grace and forgiveness to her. Then he turned to the people watching this whole ordeal and addressed the crowd with another descriptive statement about himself.

John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Jesus is Life and His Life is a Light to All

John 1:1-4 In the beginning was the Word, (Jesus) 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.**

This life of Jesus brings light! The world was living in the darkness of sin and separation from God.

Simeon Declared that Jesus would be a light of revelation.

When the baby Jesus was taken to the temple to be consecrated to the Lord by his parents, the prophet Simeon realized that Jesus was the fulfillment of the prophecy concerning the light.

Luke 2:25-33 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:
29 “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.
30 For my eyes have seen your salvation,
31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:
32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”
33 The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

Isaiah 42:6-7 “I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, 7 to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

Paul and Barnabas declared that Jesus would be the light to the Gentiles as well.

Acts 13:46-48 46 Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: “We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. 47 For this is what the Lord has commanded us: “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”
48 When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

Paul in his sermon to King Agrippa talked about Jesus bringing the message of light.

Acts 26:23 that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles.”

Isaiah prophesied about the dawning of a great light.

Isaiah 9:2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep Darkness a light has dawned.

Matthew 4:16-17 declares that Jesus is that great light.

16 the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” 17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

The Good News – Light Always Overcomes the Darkness

John 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Darkness is only the absence of light! Light always overcomes the darkness. You can't turn the darkness up or down in a room. You can only increase or decrease the light. John is telling us in verse 5 that the good, or light, that Jesus brings will never be overcome by evil or darkness.

John the Baptist Came as a Witness to the Light

John 1:6-8 There was a man sent from God whose name was John.

7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.

8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

Jesus is the True Light

John 1:9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

This is our hope and will always be, that Jesus is our light- the light of the world.

No matter how dark of a place we find ourselves in, when we choose to follow Jesus we will NEVER walk in darkness. WE HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE! We CHOOSE Life and Light.

Light Not Received

John 1:10-11 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

A very sad text. Jesus created the world, He lived in the world, but not only did the world in general not recognize Him, His own Jewish people did not receive Him as their Christ, the Messiah.

- There may have been a time in your life when you didn't recognize Jesus.
- You may be here today, and you do recognize Jesus, but have you received Him?

The Solution and The Problem

John 3:16-21 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

The Problem 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people 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 their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Light Received

John 1:12-13 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. (Children of Light)

NEXT STEP: This week I will seriously consider if I am a child of God. 1) Do I truly believe that Jesus is the Light to the world? 2) Not only do I believe, but have I received Jesus as my savior and the light of my life?

Jesus is the Light Full of Grace and Truth

John 1:14-16 The Word became flesh (born as a baby in Bethlehem) and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

15 (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”)

16 Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.

From the fullness of His grace, we received one blessing after another!” “From His fullness we received Grace”. Literally in the Greek it would read **GRACE UPON GRACE UPON GRACE UPON GRACE!**

When the Light Shines, We Are Exposed

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Jesus, the light, reveals all the dark places in our hearts and lives. When the light shines, we are exposed. But just as quickly as we are exposed, we are given an opportunity to confess and come clean. Then there is grace upon grace upon grace.

NEXT STEP: This week I will pray and ask the Lord exposes my sins and shortcomings to me. I will be quick to ask for forgiveness and experience Jesus' grace and mercy.

Now let's go back to the story, the context in which Jesus made this statement about himself. When the crowd wanted to condemn the woman caught in sin, Jesus said, “Let the ones who are without sin cast the first stone.” Then he knelt and began to write something in the sand and slowly one by one the accusers walked away.

John 8:10-11

10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

11 “No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

Then Jesus looked at the crowd and is still looking at us today and saying, don't you understand...

...“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12