

The background of the entire page is a scenic landscape. The top half shows a mountain range with a dense forest of evergreen trees. A bright sunburst effect emanates from the upper left, casting golden rays across the scene. The bottom half of the image shows a lush, green valley with a small stream winding through it, surrounded by tall grass and shrubs.

All for Jesus

LIVING WATERS MINISTRY

COME TO THE LIGHT

WORKBOOK

COME TO THE LIGHT

WORKBOOK

RICHARD T. CASE



To my wife, Linda, who has been a “shining” example of living in the Light—the truth, the way of God for us—and having the discernment to understand and

avoid darkness. God has revealed to us how significant this is to living the Covenant life, the abundant life, that He has planned for us.

We live in a dark world and in the natural it is easy to compromise our decisions and activities in that dark place. He is Light and He provides the way for us to always live in this life—and the focus is truth.

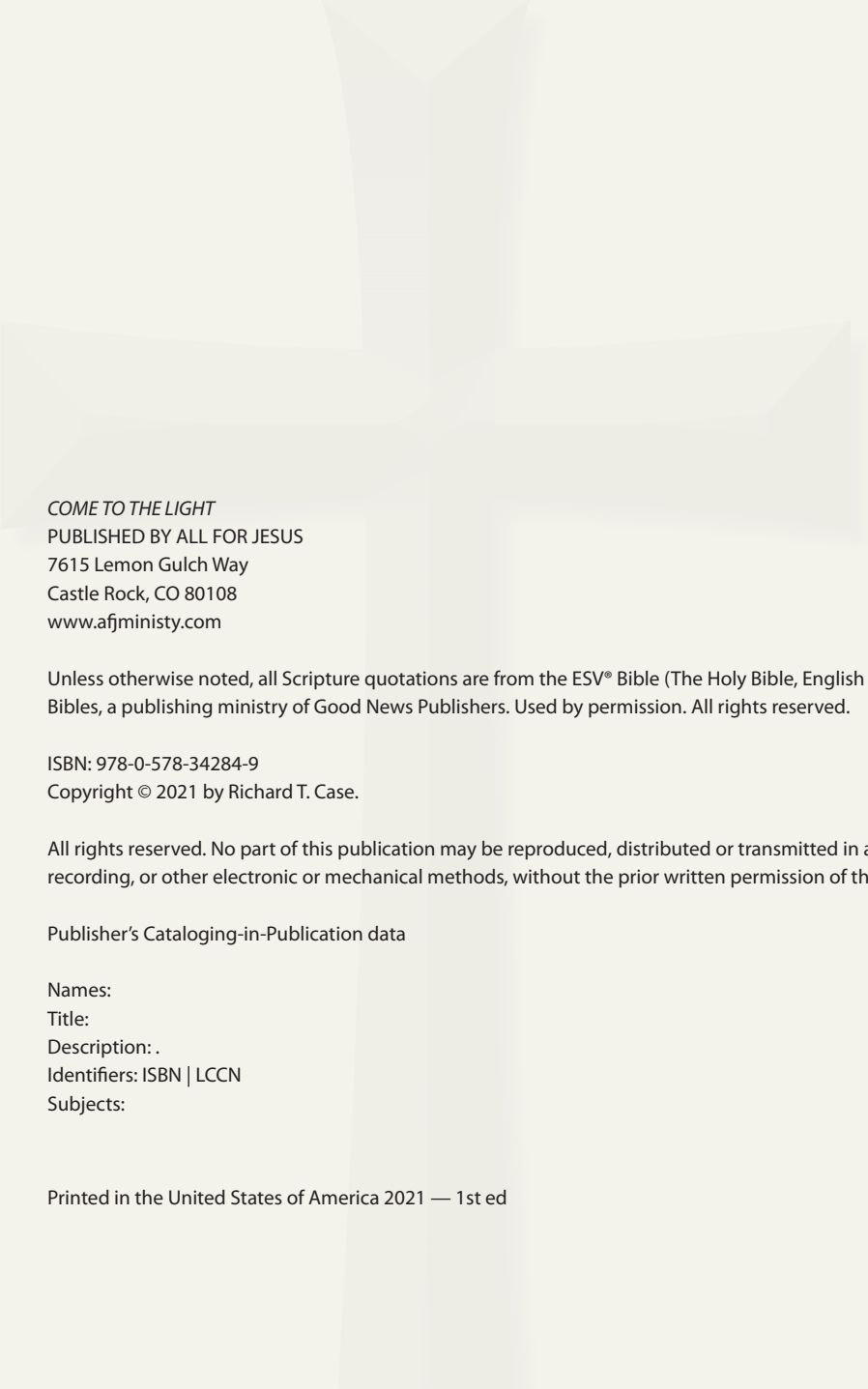
Linda has been faithful throughout all our decisions and activities to help us pursue truth and to stand on the truth revealed. Living in the Light with Linda (LLL) has been a true joy and I am privileged to have such a wonderful partner. She is truly a woman of strength and courage that seeks to live in the Light.

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LESSON 1:

UNDERSTANDING LIGHT VS. DARK: WHAT IS LIGHT?



"But remember, to understand light, we do need to realize we live in a dark world."

Why is understanding "light" so important?

One answer may be obvious: because we live in a dark world.

This course is called "Come to the Light" and will be a salve to those of us who find ourselves in the dark, confusing world where it seems that, culturally, everything is falling apart. This course will help lead us to understanding how, even in this darkness, we are called to live as a believer or true light in this world. To do this, we must first recognize there is a spiritual dimension to our life. We don't just live in the natural. And behind that spiritual dimension is the battle between the light, the true life of God in the Spirit, and the darkness, which is the life of the enemy, the satanic and demonic.

Once we understand this, we are quickly able to discern what is true, what is light, and what is coming from God—His wisdom will never be confused with the darkness. This course will take us into the depth of this and will reveal discernment, truth, light, and how we are to be led into the abundant life that God has for us.

But remember, to understand light, we do need to realize we live in a dark world.

In John 10:10, we see a description of the enemy. Describe the enemy's nature as revealed here. How does this impact the world we live in, and why this is important to understand regarding our life?

Read John 10:10:

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

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The thief is the enemy. The Satanic powers have come to steal, kill, and destroy. The powers of the enemy are relentless, and those powers are here to consistently steal the good, kill the good, and destroy the good. Those powers stand against everything and constantly work to bring us to a place of destruction—especially if we are Christians. There are forces of darkness that are coming against us to steal the good and destroy the good of what God would have us do. The world is dark—and it is the relentless activity of the enemy that brings that darkness.

Word Definitions: **thief:** abuse their confidence for their own gain
steal: take away by theft, (i.e., take away by stealth)
destroy: to put out of the way entirely, abolish, put an end to, ruin, render useless

What does this imply about the paths in the world that we walk? Why is this so significant for us?

Read Proverbs 2:13:

¹³ who forsake the paths of uprightness
to walk in the ways of darkness,

There's a path that believers can walk on that will lead to darkness. This path comes when we forsake the paths of goodness and choose, instead, the way of darkness. It is our choice to make: walk with the Lord in the way of His goodness and His righteousness or walk with Satan in the ways of darkness.

Word Definitions: **leave:** to depart from, leave behind, let alone, abandon, forsake, neglect, apostatize
path: way, road, the path, passing of life, way of living
walk: go, proceed
way: road, distance, journey, manner, habits
darkness: to be or become dark, grow dim, be darkened, be black, be hidden

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What does this say about the way of those on the path of darkness? How does this play out for us and impact us?

Read Proverbs 4:19:

¹⁹ The way of the wicked is like deep darkness;
they do not know over what they stumble.

The way of the wicked is a deep darkness. They do not know what makes them stumble. First of all, in the way of darkness, it says you will stumble. What does that mean? It's not going to be easy, but constantly a way of obstacles, trip ups, smears; and then when you stumble, what happens? You fall. Then what happens? You get hurt. Things are consequential against you; you get hurt, and then you experience difficulty. He says something about this: You're on the path of darkness. You're experiencing the difficulty. You get hurt, you have a consequence, and because you are on the path of darkness, you don't know what made you stumble. Things aren't going well for you. What do you do? You can actually start to think that this is normal, and you continue doing what you have been doing, simply accepting this for your life. "Well, I guess that's it, I guess that's life, I guess that's the way it goes, so I'll try to be as careful as I can. I'll try to fix the problems I'm experiencing." But since you don't know why you have stumbled; you can't really address it—so what do you do? You stay on the same, dark path.

If we go back to the John 10:10, we focus on the steal, kill, and destroy path, and we choose it. It's a path of self-destruction, and we just keep going down that slope farther and farther into the darkness. This can be compounded by the culture of the world, the issues of the world, which by themselves are getting worse and worse. Since we are on the path of darkness with so many others, nothing surprises us when we all face difficulties. But the issue is that we don't know why.

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Word Definitions: **wicked:** (hostile to God), guilty of sin (against God or man)
 darkness: gloominess, calamity
 know not: to know by experience
 stumble: bring injury or ruin to, overthrow, to make feeble, make weak

What do these verses tell us about the difference between the wisdom of the world and the wisdom from God. What does this then imply about the world? Why is this so important for us to understand?

Read James 3:13–18:

Wisdom from Above

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Everybody in the world has choices or decisions they must make, basic, practical stuff. We all are faced with life's questions: Should we buy something, invest in something, change jobs, operate a business, move to a new church? For these decisions, we need wisdom. But when we are in darkness, that wisdom is coming from the world and—in essence—from the enemy. So, when you're trying to figure things out, there's confusion.

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What does that look like when you just can't figure something out or you're feeling like you can't see a clear answer (or you and your spouse have a disagreement). Your Christian friends are telling you all kinds of things, which make it even more confusing, since the input doesn't match that of the world. So, all we can do is hope we guess right. At some point, we realize that we are on the path of darkness on our way to difficulties. And then we stumble again and then try to fix the problem, which we don't do very well at all. We just keep getting in deeper and deeper and deeper, and the more we selfishly try to fix things, the more trouble we see—in relationships, in business, in finance, everywhere.

Why is all this happening? Because we are living in darkness—due to selfish ambition—and want to figure things out on our own. We are left to stumbling around in the darkness.

Contrast this with the wisdom that comes from heaven, which leads us to the light, to clarity, to pure joy, to God's way. We learn this comes from following Him and allowing Him to figure things out. The key here is that the world's wisdom, the world's way is darkness and confusion that leads to difficulties, while God's wisdom leads us into the light.

Word Definitions:

- earthly:** worldly
- sensual:** selfish appetites and passions
- confusion:** disorder, disturbance
- pure:** exciting reverence; full of God's goodness
- peaceable:** bringing God's favor and best
- gentle:** equitable, fair, mild
- intreated:** compliant
- mercy:** good will; heart for disadvantaged
- good:** pleasant, agreeable (to the senses)
- pleasant:** (to the higher nature), excellent, rich, valuable in estimation: glad, happy, prosperous
- partiality:** without ambiguity or uncertainty
- hypocrisy:** playing a part, acting without believing

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Second: What is the significance of “light?”

It is the only way to the promised abundant life.

What does this say about the primary characteristic of light? Why is this so important to our life?

Read Ecclesiastes 2:13:

¹³ Then I saw that there is more gain in wisdom than in folly, as there is more gain in light than in darkness.

Light supersedes darkness. It overcomes darkness. It is superior to darkness. That's good news. Light and darkness are not a battle of equals (contrary to what many think). There's light and dark. Maybe we think that the light wins sometimes, but that the dark also wins. This is not true. Light is always preeminent over darkness. We are to live our life with an understanding of this basic truth: Light is preeminent, supersedes, overcomes, is far superior to darkness, and therefore has qualities that you can begin to trust. If we establish this as our base belief, then we should want to go to—to live in—that superseding power. Let's go there!

Word Definitions: **supersedes:** excel, show pre-eminence
darkness: obscurity, secret place; to hide, conceal, to obscure, confuse

How does John describe the light? What is the power over darkness? What does this mean in our lives?

Read John 1:1–9:

The Word Became Flesh

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 was not any thing made that was made. **4** In him was

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life^[a] and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

John says that Christ is the Word—the logos, the truth, the light. The light is eternal, and He has come into the darkness, to shine into the darkness so that the world, the people of the world who are struggling in darkness, might come to believe:

1. That He is the Light.
2. That He, with all the characteristics of the light overcomes the darkness and leads us into the abundant life.

John, who was bearing witness to it, states that he himself is not the light and that we are not to try to be the light (by trying to figure things out on our own in a dark world). We can't rely on ourselves. We must go to Him. That's why He's come. He is the Light who overcomes darkness. He came to show us all the elements of light that will keep us in the light and out of darkness. This starts with the belief that the light supersedes darkness and that Christ is the Light. Thus, we want to be in the light, and to be in the light means we will follow Him.

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Word Definitions:

word (Logos): speech, a word, uttered by a living voice, embodies a conception or idea, what someone has said, the sayings of God, decree, mandate, or order, of the moral precepts given by God, Old Testament prophecy given by the prophets, what is declared, a thought, declaration, aphorism, a weighty saying, a dictum, a maxim, discourse, the act of speaking, speech, the faculty of speech, skill and practice in speaking, a kind or style of speaking, a continuous speaking discourse – instruction, doctrine, teaching, anything reported in speech; a narration, narrative, matter under discussion, thing spoken of, affair, a matter in dispute, case, suit at law, the thing spoken of or talked about; event, deed

made: become, (i.e., to come into existence), begin to be, receive being, to become (i.e., to come to pass, happen, of events), to arise, appear in history, come upon the stage, of men appearing in public, to be made, finished, of miracles, to be performed, wrought

life: the state of one who is possessed of vitality or is animate, every living soul, of the absolute fullness of life, both essential and ethical, which belongs to God, and through Him both to the hypostatic "logos" and to Christ in whom the "logos" put on human nature, life, real and genuine, a life active and vigorous, devoted to God, blessed, in the portion even in this world of those who put their trust in Christ, but after the resurrection, to be consummated by new accessions (among them a more perfect body), and to last forever

light (Phos): the light, emitted by a lamp, a heavenly light such as that which surrounds angels when they appear on Earth, anything emitting light, a star, fire because it is light and sheds light, a lamp or torch, brightness of a lamp; metaphor. God is light because light has the extremely delicate, subtle, pure, brilliant quality, of truth and its knowledge, together with the spiritual purity associated with it, that which is exposed to the view of all, openly, publicly, reason, mind, the power of understanding especially moral and spiritual truth

shines: to bring forth into the light, cause to shine, shed light, to shine, be bright or resplendent, to become evident, to be brought forth into the light, come to view, appear, of growing vegetation, to come to light, be seen, exposed to view, to meet the eyes, strike the sight, become clear or manifest

darkness: darkness due to want of light, metaphor. used of ignorance of divine things, and its associated wickedness, and the resultant misery in hell

comprehended: to lay hold of, to lay hold of so as to make one's own, to obtain, attain to, to take into one's self, appropriate, to seize upon, take possession of, of evils overtaking one, of the last day overtaking the wicked with destruction, of a demon about to torment one

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What does Christ, the Light, promise those of us who follow Him? What does this mean about how we will experience life with Him?

Read John 10:10:

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

The light has come to lead you...to life. To a superabundant life, an exceptional life, an over-the-top life.

The light has come into darkness to shine so that you might believe; to give us life in the darkness. It is being offered to us now, not when you get to heaven. (The comment about darkness would be meaningless if Christ was talking about heaven since there is no darkness there). He said: I've come to give you a life with the struggle of darkness now. I've come to give you abundant life now, that I may give you victory, which supersedes the darkness...now.

He says He will give us the ability to discern light and dark. And will stay with us in the light because we're going to be battling the world, which is where we happen to be living. In His prayer to His Father in John 17, He says: "I'm not praying to have them removed from the darkness, I'm sending them into the darkness. I pray that You protect them from the darkness."

We thus must be careful because our desire cannot be that we never experience any darkness. This isn't possible as we live in the darkness. He says: "As you live in the darkness, I'll show you how to have the abundant life in the darkness by living in the light and overcoming the darkness."

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Word Definitions: **have:** own, possess, hold firmly
life: full, genuine, real, active, vigorous, fullness of life of God
abundant: exceedingly, supremely, extraordinary, more remarkable, more excellent

1. What is "light?"

How does Christ describe Himself? What does this mean, and why is this important to our lives?

Read John 8:12:

I Am the Light of the World

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Jesus has called Himself the "I Am." I am God and the fullness of God, everything. "I Am" is the name of God. One of the names that He states is that "I Am" is the light of the world. Jesus Christ is the light. It is something He does. It's Him, it's His character.

The light is always available to fulfill all that it is, which is what we're going to learn. It's not even a single character, it's the fullness of all these characteristics that we have available because He says He is the light, and we who follow Him will never walk in darkness. That's pretty simple. The darkness will never control us because we won't be walking there. We'll be walking with Him in the light, which means we will have certain powers over the darkness, which we happen to be living in. This is the superabundant life. The best, the fantastic, the exceptional, the grand, all that He has planned for us. Which, remember, the enemy is going to work at trying to steal, kill, and destroy.

He sets up the premise here: The ultimate choice you have to make is whether you are going to follow Him or not? There's tremendous power in the life that He has planned for you because He's the light. If you do follow Him, all of these benefits accrue to you. And if you don't, where do you wind up? Stumbling in the darkness, never knowing why.

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Christ is the light – “I AM the Light of Life!”

Word Definitions: **God is light:** light has the extremely delicate, subtle, pure, brilliant quality of truth and its knowledge, together with the spiritual purity associated with it, that which is exposed to the view of all, openly, publicly, reason, mind, the power of understanding especially moral and spiritual truth

walk: to follow one who precedes, join him as his attendant, accompany him, to join one as a disciple, become or be his disciple

darkness: due to want of light, ignorance of divine things, wickedness, and the resultant misery in hell; persons in whom darkness becomes visible and holds sway

have: to hold, to have (hold) in the hand, in the sense of wearing, to have (hold) possession of the mind (refers to alarm, agitating emotions, etc.), to hold fast, keep, to have or comprise or involve, to regard or consider or hold as, to have (i.e., own, possess)

life: of the absolute fullness of life, both essential and ethical, which belongs to God, and through Him both to the hypostatic "logos" and to Christ in whom the "logos" put on human nature, which is life that is real and genuine, a life active and vigorous, devoted to God, blessed, in the portion even in this world of those who put their trust in Christ, but after the resurrection to be consummated by new accessions (among them a more perfect body), and to last forever

In these verses, what are some of the characteristics of light? How will they be impactful in our everyday lives?

Read Daniel 5:11–12:

¹¹There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods.^[a] In the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him, and King Nebuchadnezzar, your father—your father the king—made him chief of the magicians, enchanter, Chaldeans, and astrologers,¹² because an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation.”

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This king, an unbeliever, says: I've noticed something about this guy. There's light in this person, and it is a Spirit; there's a Spirit in him, the Holy Spirit. He's got the Holy Spirit in him. And he identified it as light. What are some of the characteristics of light that he identified?

1. Knowledge – discernment, wisdom, application of that knowledge.
2. Understanding – interpret things and apply them to real situations.
3. Ability to interpret dreams – what is revealed by God in dreams and visions so that we follow His instructions, warnings, messages.
4. Ability to solve real problems, riddles, and enigmas, and other things that are beyond human ability to resolve. The light can lead us into the resolution of these difficult issues.

There are other scriptures where Daniel said: "Father, I know I can't do any of this because of my own skills, I'm getting it because of it is the Spirit of light that you've given to me that gives me these characteristics." The characteristic of light is to live out the ability to receive the things that God needs you to understand, to make decisions, and to see the truth.

Word Definitions:

- wisdom:** skill (in war), wisdom (in administration), shrewdness, prudence (in religious affairs), wisdom (ethical and religious)
- knowledge:** perceive and see, find out and discern, to discriminate, distinguish, to know by experience
- understanding:** discernment, perceive, receive clear instructions of application; interpret spiritual (dreams, prophetic)
- resolving:** showing, declaration, a declaring
- riddles:** puzzles, difficult and hard issues/questions
- explaining:** loosen, open up
- enigmas:** difficulties, doubts, double binds, no obvious answer
- omnipotence:** omnipresence, omniscience

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In order for us to experience the light, what is necessary that we understand about the light? How do we live this out so that we receive the power of the light?

Read 1 Timothy 6:13–16:

¹³ I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before^[a] Pontius Pilate made the good confession,¹⁴ to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords,¹⁶ who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

Paul states that Christ, who appeared before Pilate, is the Lord of lords, King of kings, potentate. What do all these words mean? He's the ruler, He's the king. And the light means that He must be ruling as king and potentate. In order for you to experience the light, He's got to be the King. You're going to have to let Him be the King, as He is to be directing, leading, guiding as He desires to fulfill His will because He's the potentate, He's the Lord of lords, He's the King of kings. Paul states that He appeared before Pilate, and so he wants us to understand something important about that appearance as we understand light and Christ as King. Let's go there.

Word Definitions: **good:** beautiful, handsome, excellent, eminent, choice, surpassing, precious, useful, suitable, commendable, admirable, beautiful to look at, shapely, magnificent, excellent in its nature and characteristics, and therefore well adapted to its ends, genuine, approved, joined to names of men designated by their office, competent, able, such as one ought to be, praiseworthy, noble
confession: profession

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subjectively: whom we profess to be ours

potentate/king of kings/lord of lords: royal minister of great authority (ruler of the Kingdom)

In this story of Jesus appearing before Pilate, what did Paul want us to understand about Christ being King of kings? What did Jesus say that was so important that we need to receive? What does this look like in our everyday lives?

Read John 18:18–38:

¹⁸ Now the servants^[a] and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

The High Priest Questions Jesus

¹⁹ The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.²⁰ Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret." ²¹ Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said." ²² When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" ²³ Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?" ²⁴ Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Peter Denies Jesus Again

²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." ²⁶ One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" ²⁷ Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

Jesus Before Pilate

²⁸ Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters.^[b] It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you

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bring against this man?"³⁰ They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you."³¹ Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death."³² This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

My Kingdom Is Not of This World

³³ So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?"³⁵ Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?"³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice."³⁸ Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him."

Pilate asked Jesus: "Are you the king of the Jews?" This goes back to the statement that Paul makes in Timothy: Christ is the King of kings, Lord of lords and Potentate, and He appeared before Pilate. Jesus replied, "Did somebody tell you that?" Pilate said: "I'm not a Jew; I've heard that about you - are you the king or not?" And Jesus responds and said, "I am the King, but My Kingdom is not of this world." He then makes another statement that is profound (which relates to what Paul says in Timothy): "Anyone who desires truth, hears My voice. If you do not hear My voice, you do not desire truth; if you're not hearing My voice, you're not going to be able to hear truth. Thus, if you desire truth, you will hear My voice because I'll speak it to you."

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A key characteristic of the light is to have a heart for truth, which comes from what He says in His position as King. He's in dialogue with Pilate because Pilate, up to that point, is having an authentic interest in the King and a desire to understand truth. Then Jesus said, "If you have a heart for truth, you'll hear My voice." Then Pilate stops the conversation, and he makes this interesting statement, "What is truth?" In other words, he says there is no truth now. Jesus just said, if you want to know the truth, you'll hear My voice, and Pilate could have said: Could you help me understand? What are you talking about? What truth do you want me to understand? But instead, he said: There's no truth. So that's the end of that. And by the way, what did Jesus say? Nothing.

If you have a heart for truth, you will hear His voice. Do you want to walk in the light? If you do not, He'll let you walk in the darkness, which is exactly what happened with Pilate.

Word Definitions:

Kingdom: royal power, kingship, dominion, rule, not to be confused with an actual kingdom but rather the right or authority to rule over a kingdom, of the royal power of Jesus as the triumphant Messiah, of the royal power and dignity conferred on Christians in the Messiah's Kingdom

truth: objectively what is true in any matter under consideration, truly, in truth, according to truth, of a truth, in reality, in fact, certainly

hear: to attend to, consider what is or has been said, to understand, perceive the sense of what is said

What does this tell us about light and dark? How important is this to how we live? What exactly does this practically mean in our everyday lives?

Read 2 Corinthians 6:14–18:

The Temple of the Living God

¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?¹⁵ What accord has Christ with Belial?^[a] Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

¹⁷ Therefore go out from their midst,

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and be separate from them, says the Lord,
and touch no unclean thing;
then I will welcome you,
¹⁸ and I will be a father to you,
and you shall be sons and daughters to me,
says the Lord Almighty.”

Light and dark can't be in the same place, as Paul explains. In fact, he goes through a whole litany of why light and darkness cannot be in the same place:

1. Christ/Belial
2. Righteousness/unrighteousness
3. Things that are of Him and things that aren't of Him (and instead are of the world)

He tells us clearly that in anything that involves darkness, we must separate ourselves from it (and this is describing things in our lives that would have power with, decision making authority with, partnership with, significant influence with that affects our walk, etc.—not that we avoid anyone in the world, since we are to take the message of the Gospel to those in the world).

So, what would we want to know about our life? Is there anything dark that I need to be separating from? Is there anything we're partnering with in any way that we need to separate from because it's now impacting us? Are there relationships or activities in which we participate that are controlling, influencing, moving us away from the truth, or the light?

This tends to be somewhat tricky because the enemy wants us to live in the shades of grey – and believe that grey is okay. This leads us to compromise with the grey, which is really deceit and a life lived in darkness. If we have a heart for truth, God will reveal to us what is truly dark, and then we are to separate from this dark.

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Word Definitions:

- completely pure:** no partnership with darkness
- unequally yoked:** come under an unequal or different yoke, to have fellowship with one who is not an equal
- unbeliever:** unfaithful, faithless, (not to be trusted, perfidious), of things unbelieving, incredulous, without trust (in God)
- fellowship:** sharing, communion
- righteousness:** in a broad sense: state of him who is as he ought to be, the condition acceptable to God, the doctrine concerning the way in which man may attain a state approved of God, integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, correctness of thinking, feeling, and acting
- unrighteousness:** the condition of being without law, because of ignorance, because of violating it, contempt and violation of law, iniquity, wickedness
- communion:** fellowship, association, community, joint participation, intercourse, the sharing of anything, participation, intimacy
- light:** Phos
- darkness:** Skotos
- concord:** agreement
- Belial:** "worthless or wicked," a name of Satan
- part:** a portion, share
- believing:** confiding, trusting; in the New Testament: one who trusts in God's promises, one who is convinced that Jesus has been raised from the dead, one who has become convinced that Jesus is the Messiah and author of salvation
- infidel:** unbelieving, incredulous, without trust (in God)
- agreement:** a putting together or joint deposit (of votes), hence approval, assent
- temple:** used of the temple at Jerusalem, but only of the sacred edifice (or sanctuary) itself, consisting of the holy place and the Holy of Holies (in classical Greek, it is used of the sanctuary or cell of the temple, where the image of gold was placed, which is distinguished from the whole enclosure)
- idols:** an image, likeness, (i.e., whatever represents the form of an object, either real or imaginary), used of the shades of the departed, apparitions, spectres, phantoms of the mind, etc. the image of a heathen god, a false god
- come out:** departs, of those who leave a place of their own accord
- separate:** to mark off from others by boundaries
- touch:** to limit; to fasten one's self to, adhere to, cling to
- unclean:** in thought and life

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What do these verses (which we do understand about the wonderful work of Christ for us) say about the difference between evil and light? Thus, what is the key for us to pursue in all aspects of our lives? What does that look like?

Read John 3:16–21:

For God So Loved the World

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world,^[a] that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

The profound truth is that we all start out with the sin of Adam and Eve. All of us are born into the sin nature, and thus, we all stand condemned because God, who is holy, demands perfection and light (holiness) cannot be in the same place as darkness (un-holiness). The only remedy is for us to be born again and the Spirit re-entering us because we believe what Christ has done for us based upon the Father so loving us (sending His only Son to satisfy the requirement of perfection by taking on the penalty required, which was death). In this world, there's a tendency to move toward what's called universalism, meaning there are lots of ways to move from condemnation to relationship with God and go to heaven in eternity. But God is clear that there's only one way to get to God. So, He gave His only Son who died at the cross and was resurrected. And Christ says: I am the way,

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the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. There's only one way and you either believe it or you don't. If you believe it, you have eternal life with Him. If you don't believe it, you stand condemned forever and will be separated from Him. So, it's a demarcation. These verses then go on to the next level and say another important thing about the life:

If you are willing to come to the light, you will pursue truth. If you don't pursue truth, He calls you evil. This means that in our life, we are relegated to stumble around and have a frustrating life. And not even understand why. And keep stumbling around and continue having frustration, irritation, difficulty, oppression, all because we weren't willing to go to the truth.

If you go to the light, you're always willing to go to the truth, but what's the truth? If we are stumbling around, we would say: Things aren't going well. Something isn't right. I don't need to put up with this. I need to find out what's going on. I am going to the King to find out the truth, which exists in the light. He will lead you to the light and solve the issue.

As we learned, if you have a heart to go to the truth, you will hear His voice, and He'll tell you exactly all the characteristics of how to be led into the beautiful light. Your heart should always want to come to the truth. Do you want to come to the truth about a certain situation, about His heart, about what needs to be done? Come to the light and see the truth.

Word Definitions:

- saved:** keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction (from injury or peril), to save a suffering one (from perishing), i.e., one suffering from disease, to make well, heal, restore to health, to preserve one who is in danger of destruction, to save or rescue
- judgment:** opinion or decision given concerning anything, especially concerning justice and injustice, right or wrong, sentence of condemnation, damnatory judgment, and punishment
- loved:** of persons: to welcome, to entertain, to be fond of, to love dearly, of things: to be well pleased, to be contented at or with a thing
- darkness:** Skotos
- light:** Phos
- deeds:** business, employment, that which any one is occupied, that which one undertakes to do, enterprise, undertaking
- evil:** full of labors, annoyances, hardships, pressed and harassed by labors, bringing toils, annoyances, perils; of a time full of peril to Christian faith and steadfastness; causing pain and trouble, bad, of a bad nature or condition, in a physical sense: diseased or blind; in an ethical sense: wicked, bad
- do evil:** accomplish only what is easy, slight, ordinary, mean, worthless, of no account, ethically, bad, wicked

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hate: pursue with hatred, detest

come: to come from one place to another, persons arriving, to appear, make one's appearance, come before the public

reproved: to convict, refute, confute, generally with a suggestion of shame of the person convicted, by conviction to bring to the light, to expose, to find fault with, correct

do: to act rightly, do well, to carry out, to execute

truth: objectively, what is true in any matter under consideration, truly, in truth, according to truth, of a truth, in reality, in fact, certainly

manifest: to make manifest or visible or known what has been hidden or unknown, to manifest, whether by words, or deeds, or in any other way, make actual and visible, realized, to make known by teaching

wrought: to cause to exist, produce

in God: truth, separation of good and dark

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"One of the highest priorities of the light is to bring us to truth."

What does the “Light” provide for His children?

What does the Light lead us to? What happens there, and why is that so beneficial to us?

Read Psalm 43:3–4:

³ Send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling!
⁴ Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy,
and I will praise you with the lyre,
O God, my God.

One of the highest priorities of the light is to bring us to truth; this particular description is to His holy place called the Tabernacle. What is that? The place where He is. The Tabernacle was called the Tent of Meeting. It's really that simple. It's where God's people met with Him and had personal conversation with God. There was a personal relationship and discussion of life, and you could tell God your issues or troubles and that you'd like to hear what He has to say about that. And He would talk to you. The light will bring you into a relationship with Him where you will hear His answers for your everyday issues. He knows more than you, and in fact, He knows it all. And not only does He know it all, He knows the future; He knows

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what's around the corner, and He knows what's going to be best. Come to the light that will lead you to Him. And to the truth of all the issues of your life—and your response will be great joy.

Why? Because you're in His presence, you are in a relationship with Him. And you get to celebrate just being with Him. Part of the experience of the light and the benefit of the light is when you get to be with Him and experience the joy of being with Him. There, you will get answers, you'll get understanding as you dialogue together. He, the God of the universe, who is omnipresent and omnipotent, cares about you personally and will deliver to you this abundant life that He has promised.

You are to celebrate all of this. It's succeeding, joyful rejoicing and taking the time to celebrate. Enjoy the relationship. Enjoy the dialogue. Enjoy the opportunity to experience each other, day by day, step by step. You will receive answers and the abundant life, but most of all you will receive Him, who is the light and who will bring you joy!

Word Definitions: **His holy place:** the tabernacle, the tent of meeting

light: to be or become light, shine, to become light (day), to shine (of the sun), to become bright, to be illuminated, to become lighted up, to give light, shine (of sun, moon, and stars), to illumine, light up, cause to shine, to kindle, light (candle, wood), lighten (of the eyes, his law, etc.), to make shine (of the face)

truth: firmness, faithfulness, sureness, reliability, stability, continuance, as spoken, of testimony and judgment, of divine instruction, truth as a body of ethical or religious knowledge, true doctrine

bring in: cause to come in, gather, cause to come, bring near, bring against, bring upon

holy: apartness, holiness, sacredness, separateness, of God, of places, of things

Tabernacle – Tent of Meeting: to settle down, abide, dwell, reside

altar: to slaughter, kill, sacrifice, slaughter for sacrifice; to slaughter for eating, to slaughter in divine judgment

exceeding joy: joy, mirth, gladness, gaiety, pleasure, joy (of God), glad result, happy issue

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What do these verses promise are the benefits of walking in the light? Why are they so meaningful to us and our lives?

Read Psalm 4:6–8:

⁶There are many who say, “Who will show us some good?

Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord!”

⁷You have put more joy in my heart

than they have when their grain and wine abound.

⁸In peace I will both lie down and sleep;

for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

If we walk with Him, we will experience the light of His countenance, His face, His presence.

There are great benefits to that.

1. **Peace:** The word peace is shalom. It's not the absence of conflict, but rather it's completeness, your welfare, soundness, health, prosperity, contentment, fullness, God's covenant relationship, bless you to make you a blessing. It's favor. It leads you to peace.
2. **Safety:** When you're safe, you feel content, secure, bold. Within that safety, your ability to make decisions improves dramatically because you're not fearful. We are no longer in a darkness that is unsafe. We are living in a dark world that has an enemy that's working hard at creating the darkness and trouble all the time. But in that place, God leads us to light that overcomes the darkness, and this creates safety. The benefit of light is safety. If you let Him guide you into it and it overcomes the darkness, you remain in a place of safety in a dark world because He's given you wisdom and insight as to what to do in a bad economy or some other difficulty. The light leads us into safety through His guidance in decision making and His supernatural work to create safety.

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We will sleep well because we do not fear, and we have no anxiety. We can live a life of shalom and safety. What a privilege.

Word Definitions: **peace (shalom):** completeness, soundness, welfare, completeness (in number), safety, soundness (in body), health, prosperity, quiet, tranquility, contentment, peace, friendship, of human relationships, with God especially in covenant relationship, peace (from war), peace (as an adjective)
safety: trust, to have confidence, be confident, to be bold, to be secure, to feel safe

What are the benefits of walking in the light? What do these mean to us practically?

Read Ephesians 5:8–9:

⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),

There are three benefits to walking in the light:

1. Goodness. All of the abundant life and the goodness of the abundant life, He will deliver to you.
2. Righteousness. Are you righteous by yourself now? No. Who is righteous here? He's righteous. What will happen to you as you walk in the light? You become more like His righteousness. He will be becoming part of you. The life, the character of Christ will be in you. The nature of Christ will be in you. It's not something you go do or work at – rather it becomes you as you walk in the light. Righteousness, His nature in you is a result of walking in the light, a wonderful benefit of just being with Him.
3. Truth. More and more you'll receive truth. You'll understand truth. You'll have a heart for truth. And when you begin to realize that, then your desire will

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always be pursuing: What's the truth about everything? And because you won't be afraid of it and you will want to know more, know more, know more – you understand this will lead you to freedom and God's best. You will want to know the truth, even about your own faults. You are willing to see these so that you can live in truth.

Word Definitions: **goodness:** uprightness of heart and life, kindness

righteousness: in a broad sense: state of him who is as he ought to be, the condition acceptable to God, the doctrine concerning the way in which man may attain a state approved of God, integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, correctness of thinking, feeling, and acting

truth: objectively, what is true in any matter under consideration, truly, in truth, according to truth, of a truth, in reality, in fact, certainly

What does this story relate about a profound truth about the light? How does this impact our life and how we approach living in the light?

Read Luke 8:16–18:

A Lamp Under a Jar

¹⁶“No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. ¹⁷ For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light. ¹⁸ Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away.”

In the light, we will speak things out in the open. There will be no secrets. Do the opposite of what the world says. Stay in the light and speak things out in the open, and more will be given, but if not, then things will be taken away.

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The life of the light is not a secret life. It's not a hidden life. It's an open life, one where we are walking in the open, sharing with others what we are receiving in the light. We will be given more (because we are willing to receive, live it out, and give it away). We're going to be given abundance. We're going to be given truth. We're going to be given righteousness. We're going to be given goodness. And He says, as you receive more and more of that, what's going to happen? You get more.

Stay there because you're going to get more. If you decide that you know better, be prepared for the consequence of heading back into the darkness.

Word Definitions: **secret:** hidden, concealed
manifest: apparent, evident, known
hid: concealing, keeping secret
know: understand, perceive, have knowledge of
come abroad: apparent, manifest, evident, known

What are the benefits of walking in the light? What do these mean to our lives?

Read Isaiah 58:6–12:

⁶ “Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of wickedness,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed^[a] go free,
and to break every yoke?
⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover him,
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?
⁸ Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up speedily;
your righteousness shall go before you;
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
⁹ Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’
If you take away the yoke from your midst,
the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,
¹⁰ if you pour yourself out for the hungry
and satisfy the desire of the afflicted,

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then shall your light rise in the darkness
and your gloom be as the noonday.

¹¹ And the Lord will guide you continually
and satisfy your desire in scorched places
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters do not fail.

¹² And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to dwell in.

As we overcome the darkness through the light breaking us free, there are beautiful benefits:

1. Healing.
2. Protection by the glorious rear guard.
3. Righteousness will go before you.
4. When you call on Him, the Lord answers.

We, then, will help others. As you experience the light and receive freedom, other people will ask, Is that possible for me? And what will you say? Let me help you. Right then, you become the purveyor of light to others. And you join the light in that place of being a restorer, repairer of their issues. This happens because they now go to the light.

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People are going to come and say, “I have a big problem, I’m in trouble. I’ve got an issue, and I don’t see a way out of it.” And your comment to them should be: “I know who does know the solution. God, the Light. He will bring you restoration and restore what you’ve lost.”

Word Definitions: **guide:** to lead, bring
continually: continuity, perpetuity
satisfy: be sated, be satisfied with, be fulfilled, be filled, have one's fill of (have desire satisfied), to have in excess
soul: self, life, creature, person, appetite, mind, living being, desire, emotion, passion
drought: scorched region, parched land
build: rebuild, establish, cause to continue

As you live in the light, what do you become? Why is that a wonderful benefit to you and to others? What does that look like in your life?

Read Isaiah 42:6–9:

⁶ “I am the Lord; I have called you[a] in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,
⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
⁸ I am the Lord; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to carved idols.
⁹ Behold, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth
I tell you of them.”

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As you're walking in the light, you become the light to others. There are wonderful benefits—first to you, since you receive them, and then to others, who learn them as you help them live in the light:

1. Open their eyes to the darkness of the world and what they have accepted as normal.
2. Help lead them out of prison or captivity to the very patterns and habits that they are stuck in.
3. Help set them free from worry and anxiety, and trust that God will deliver all of us in all situations.

In this, He reminds us that it is not about us, as He will not give His glory to another and will not share it in any way. When we say to someone that we can help them to be led by the Light and that we guarantee they will be set free, it has nothing to do with us but instead, because we have been in the light, we know how to connect others to the light. Tell them up front that you have nothing to give them because it is not about us. We are just going to help them get connected to the one who is the light and who will bring them to freedom—it's all about Him.

When they experience this, they can go on and multiply it—connecting others to the light: And it goes on and on and on and on and on. God says He is giving us as the covenant (blessed to be a blessing) to the people. We have the benefit of receiving it and will have the privilege of others receiving it and giving it away.

Word Definitions: **open:** (the eyes); to open (the ears)
bring out: to cause to go or come out, bring out, lead out, to bring out of, to lead out, to deliver
prisoner: captive
new: new thing, fresh
declare: make known, expound, to inform of, to publish, proclaim

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What does Christ speak here about receiving things in private? Why is this important, and what benefit will we accrue?

Read Matthew 10:27–31:

²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸ And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.^[a] ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?^[b] And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.³¹ Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

What you hear from Him in private (because you are walking with Him in the light), He says to broadcast it publicly. You have a heart for truth, and thus are going to receive more truth. As you receive this truth, He asks you to broadcast this truth in a broader way. And the light will spread in a bigger way, because you'll share what you heard with others who have a heart to hear, and they'll have a chance to respond. Then, it will multiply, multiply, multiply. The benefit is first we receive it and live it out; then we broadcast it, and others receive it and live it out, and then they will broadcast it. We all get closer to the light and enjoy the light together. A true joy that mitigates any fear of rejection or opposition since we have no concern of this.

Word Definitions: **tell:** say, to speak, affirm over, maintain, to teach, to exhort, advise, to command, direct, to point out with words, intend, mean, mean to say

speak: say

hear something: to perceive by the ear what is announced in one's presence, to get by hearing, learn, a thing comes to one's ears, to find out, to give ear to a teaching or a teacher, to comprehend, to understand

preach: to publish, proclaim openly: something which has been done

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Our role is very clear and necessary to experience benefits.

Key principles:

What does it mean to “work out your own salvation”? How do we do that, and how does it relate to following God and living in the light? What practically does that mean to us?

Read Philippians 2:12–15:

Lights in the World

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

You're going to shine as lights, which means you are walking in the light. This part is clear. So, what then does it mean to “work out your own salvation”? Salvation isn't just your ticket to heaven; it is only the beginning of eternal life. We don't know our destiny, but salvation is living out the life of God here. And you have to work that out on your own, on your own personal path, which is unique to you. Yes, unique to you, but not to be determined by you. He says to follow what He works in you to do.

It is important not to assume anything, since this will leave us in darkness. The enemy's done a good trick even amongst Christian teaching. He says everything that happens “is God's will.” “Whatever happens, happens.” “Whatever you decide or do, it doesn't really matter since all is God's will.” Working out your own salvation is up to you.” Some of us even try to do things Biblically. However, it seems like we are stumbling about, and things are usually difficult.

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God is saying that our unique salvation, our path in life, has to be worked out with Him by walking in the light with fear and trembling, to follow what He works in us to do, but we must let Him be King. And you either do or you don't. So, don't be deceived. He said “with fear and trembling” purposely: We are to know that it matters whether our path is what He worked out for us and not our own. It will go well if we do what He's worked out, and it will not go well if we do not follow and try to figure it out on our own. We need to work out our own salvation by following the light—He will show us the way.

Work out your own salvation.

Word Definitions:

- work out:** to perform, accomplish, achieve, i.e., to do that from which something
- results, of things:** bring about, result in, to fashion i.e., render one fit for a thing
- own salvation (soteria):** deliverance, preservation, safety, salvation, deliverance from the molestation of enemies, in an ethical sense, that which concludes to the soul's safety or salvation, of Messianic salvation, salvation as the present possession of all true Christians, future salvation, the sum of benefits and blessings which the Christians, redeemed from all earthly ills, will enjoy after the visible return of Christ from heaven in the consummated and eternal Kingdom of God
- fear:** dread, terror, that which strikes terror
- trembling:** with fear and trembling, used to describe the anxiety of one who distrusts his ability completely to meet all requirements, but religiously does his utmost to fulfill his duty
- works:** to be operative, be at work, put forth power, to work for one, aid one
- to will:** have in mind, intend, to be resolved or determined, to purpose, to desire, to wish, to love, to like to do a thing, be fond of doing, to take delight in, have pleasure
- do:** to be operative, be at work, put forth power, to work for one, aid one
good pleasure: will, choice, good will, kindly intent, benevolence, delight, pleasure, satisfaction, desire, for delight in any absent thing easily produces longing for it
- without complaining:** a murmur, murmuring, muttering, a secret debate, a secret displeasure not openly avowed
- disputing:** the thinking of a man deliberating with himself, a thought, inward reasoning, purpose, design, a deliberating, questioning about what is true, hesitation, doubting, arguing

LESSON 2:

WHAT DOES THE “LIGHT” PROVIDE?

WHAT IS OUR ROLE?

With this description of the oil and the lamp, what is the spiritual principle that is important for us to understand? What does that mean for each of us personally?

Read Exodus 27:20–21; 35:4–9, 27–29:

Oil for the Lamp

²⁰ “You shall command the people of Israel that they bring to you pure beaten olive oil for the light, that a lamp may regularly be set up to burn. ²¹ In the tent of meeting, outside the veil that is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening to morning before the Lord. It shall be a statute forever to be observed throughout their generations by the people of Israel.

Contributions for the Tabernacle

⁴ Moses said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, “This is the thing that the Lord has commanded. ⁵ Take from among you a contribution to the Lord. Whoever is of a generous heart, let him bring the Lord's contribution: gold, silver, and bronze; ⁶ blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen; goats' hair, ⁷ tanned rams' skins, and goatskins;^[a] acacia wood, ⁸ oil for the light, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, ⁹ and onyx stones and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece.

²⁷ And the leaders brought onyx stones and stones to be set, for the ephod and for the breastpiece, ²⁸ and spices and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the fragrant incense. ²⁹ All the men and women, the people of Israel, whose heart moved them to bring anything for the work that the Lord had commanded by Moses to be done brought it as a free will offering to the Lord.

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The principle here is that the light is kept burning by the oil. Therefore, we are to keep our light burning by our oil—for us, this is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Be constantly filled with the Holy Spirit. In this story, the Israelites brought a free will offering, symbolizing their surrender to the will of God. We have just learned that we are to work out our own salvation by following the light along our unique path. He tells us to walk in the Spirit all the time by surrendering our will to His.

And you can't make a permanent choice, it needs to be a constant choice to deny self, take up the cross, and follow Him. When? All the time. And the light is going to burn because you are choosing to let the Holy Spirit operate all the time.

Word Definitions: **keep in the Spirit:** live in purity, surrender our will
bring: take, get, fetch, lay hold of, seize, receive, acquire, buy
pure oil: bright, be shining, to be clean, righteous, holy
for the light: everything
valuable: anointing oil (filled with the Spirit)
incense: prayer, dialogue with the Father
free will offering: free will, voluntary
willing heart: be made; willing—freely from heart and soul
stay in the Spirit: pray, surrender

If we are walking in the light, who must we know, experience, and follow?
Why is this important, particularly versus studying about the light? What is the difference, and what difference will it mean in our life?

Read John 1:6–9:

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.
⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

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We are not the light, but we are just to bear witness to the light. If you're going to bear witness to the light, we must then be experiencing the light. You do not just talk about the light that you studied about, you are sharing what you are experiencing. Big difference. Some say: I know about the light, but I'm actually sitting in darkness—all the while talking about the light. It's kind of hilarious. We read about the life, the light. We thought we were in the light. But is it happening for you? No, we just know about it.

As we saw in Lesson One, most believers are walking in the darkness and don't even know it. As far as we know, we're in the Light. But we're stumbling around and don't know why things just aren't going well, thinking this is the way it's supposed to be. And we think we're okay even as we are stumbling around the darkness without even realizing we are in the darkness. If we experience the light, we can bear witness to the light and say to others: “Let me show you a different way—and it will be a grand, beautiful way to live.” And many will listen and have a heart to go.

Word Definitions: **bear witness to the light:** bear witness; to be a witness, to affirm that one has seen or heard or experienced something, or that he knows it because of being taught by divine revelation or inspiration
believe: to think to be true, to be persuaded of, to credit, place confidence in, of the thing believed

What does John say about our role with the light, and what we are to pursue and enjoy? Why? What does this look like in our personal lives?

Read John 3:22–36:

John the Baptist Exalts Christ

²² After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. ²³ John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized ²⁴ (for John had not yet been put in prison).

²⁵ Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. ²⁶ And they came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him.” ²⁷ John answered, “A person cannot receive even one

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thing unless it is given him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.’ ²⁹ The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. ³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease.”^[a]

³¹ He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. ³² He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. ³³ Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. ³⁴ For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. ³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. ³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

John reiterates that he is not the light, but bears witness to the light: What I do is I stand with Him. I get to be His friend. I get to experience Him. I get to hear His voice as I have been given this privilege.

He must increase, and I must decrease. But what does that mean?

It means that our focus, our privilege, is always to be surrendered to and following the light and in relationship with Him since He is our friend, and we both enjoy being in fellowship. Since we hear His voice, our discussion is always about His heart, His truth, His answers, His instruction that will lead us to His best and none better. What does the light say? What is the light going to reveal, because the solution is from Him. We know we have a problem. But He does not want us to stay there and try to figure this all out on our own. We must decrease. The light must increase.

What the light says (again, since our privilege is to hear His voice as we are in fellowship with Him) is what must be increasing. He will speak His word to us (Rhema), and this will be truth, life, His best for us, and where He works and acts supernaturally on our behalf. He must increase as we must decrease. And it is a privilege and a joy.

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Word Definitions: **hear His voice:** receive truth

friend: an associate, he who associates familiarly with one, a companion, one of the bridegroom's friends who on his behalf asked the hand of the bride and rendered him various services in closing the marriage and celebrating the nuptials

greatly rejoice: be glad, to rejoice exceedingly, to be well, thrive

at hearing His voice: to attend to, consider what is or has been said, to understand, perceive the sense of what is said

must: necessity in reference to what is required to attain some end

decrease: less in rank, popularity

light must increase: become greater

receive: to take what is one's own, to take to one's self, to make one's own to claim, procure, for one's self

light: truth

speak: to use words in order to declare one's mind and disclose one's thoughts

words: (Rhema) of God (bear witness)

LESSON 3:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE (CONTINUED)?



"It's not you taking charge. It's not you saying I'm going to make it happen. He will bring it to pass as you commit the pathway to Him. . ."

Our role is very clear and necessary to experience benefits.

Delight in Him – Abide:

What does it mean to delight in Him? As we do delight in Him, what does He promise? What does that mean to us personally?

Read Psalm 37:1–8:

He Will Not Forsake His Saints

^[a] Of David.

37 Fret not yourself because of evildoers;

be not envious of wrongdoers!

² For they will soon fade like the grass

and wither like the green herb.

³ Trust in the Lord, and do good;

dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.^[b]

⁴ Delight yourself in the Lord,

and he will give you the desires of your heart.

⁵ Commit your way to the Lord;

trust in him, and he will act.

⁶ He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,

and your justice as the noonday.

⁷ Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;

fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,

over the man who carries out evil devices!

⁸ Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath!

Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.

LESSON 3:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE (CONTINUED)?

What does it mean to delight in Him?

1. Don't fret.
2. Have confidence in Him because you can trust in Him.
3. Dwell in Him in His pasture, feed on Him. Be in His Word and take in every word He says to you. Feed on Him, go where He shows you. He wants to give you light. He wants to give you His Word. He wants to give you His truth. And feeding in and being in the pasture means you're not going from thing to thing to thing. It's staying in one place - receiving it, chewing on it, living there as it's transforming you and giving you the truth that He wants you to hear.
4. Commit your way to Him, surrender your will to Him, and believe that He will bring it to pass.

It's not you taking charge. It's not you saying I'm going to make it happen. He will bring it to pass as you commit the pathway to Him and surrendering your will to Him. It's feeding on Him, trusting Him, committing your way to Him. And as you delight in Him, which is what He delights in (you being with Him), He says that you will be given the desires of your heart and led into the light. He will match circumstances along the path that He has planned with things that thrill your heart and as you walk along the path of light where He leads you. It is an amazing work that He can bring to pass.

Word Definitions:

trust: have confidence, to be bold

good: beautiful, handsome, excellent, eminent, choice, surpassing, precious, useful, suitable, commendable, admirable, beautiful to look at, shapely, magnificent, excellent in its nature and characteristics, and therefore well adapted to its ends, genuine, approved, joined to names of men designated by their office, competent, able, such as one ought to be, praiseworthy, noble

dwell: abide, reside

feed: pasture, tend, graze

delight: to be happy about, take exquisite delight, to make merry over

heart: inner man, mind, will, soul, understanding

commit: roll down same path

come to pass: make happen

rest: to be silent, be still

wait: dance with

LESSON 3:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE (CONTINUED)?

What has Christ done regarding how we are placed in the light? What does that mean, and what is important for us to follow if we are to experience this? On what basis will we experience this?

Read Colossians 1:9–18:

⁹ And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹² giving thanks^[a] to the Father, who has qualified you^[b] to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The Preeminence of Christ

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by^[c] him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

LESSON 3:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE (CONTINUED)?

All things were created by Him, and for Him. Thus, the material is subordinate to the spiritual.

This world was created by Him speaking it (called Ex-nihilo) out of nothing. The material, the physical, all things literally were created by Him and for Him through Him speaking; this is the spiritual. He is above all things, because He is superior to all things. And there's nothing that is beyond His ability to influence, create change, or make happen because it's all subordinate to Him. Even the heavens, the invisible, are created by Him. Principalities and powers, who's above that? He is. The darkness, the demonic, and the powers that are working the darkness are subordinate to Him. Do they have more power than Him? No. It's not a battle of equals. And that's why this issue of darkness and light is so critical. He's superior to all darkness.

This describes the darkness. It is well organized and well structured so that there's the ability to act and react and turn your focus on yourself and bring distress to come against you at different levels.

But who's above all that? Christ. He's above all things. He's superior to all things. This does involve us—and even the church—He is involved in all things of our life, which are in the material world. What do you have to deal with? Circumstances, business, income, relationships, houses, cars for those of us living in America, and all other issues of life. But He is what? Preeminent. In the pursuit of light, if He's above all and can deliver all and solve all and answer all, then we are to put Him first and go to Him first, foremost—only and always.

How is this possible? He has transferred us from darkness into His Kingdom—the Kingdom of Light. This has already been done. You have been transferred. If that is true and that spiritual Kingdom is preeminent and has all the power over the darkness, why then do we wind up back in the darkness? Through our own decision. We keep walking back into the darkness because we can. We have free will and always have a choice to either walk in the light or, by default, go back to the darkness. We can either experience the preeminence of the light through our surrender to the King; or we can experience the difficulties of the darkness where we have no power, no victory. This is our choice.

Word Definitions: **filled:** make full, to fill up, i.e., to fill to the full, to cause to abound, to furnish or supply liberally, I abound, I am liberally supplied, to render full, i.e., to complete, to fill to the top so that nothing shall be wanting, to full measure, fill to the brim
wisdom: understanding, perception with the thing perceived
fruitful: bear fruit

LESSON 3:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE (CONTINUED)?

Word Definitions:

good: constitution or nature, useful, salutary, pleasant, agreeable, joyful, happy, excellent, distinguished, upright, honorable

work: business, employment, that which any one is occupied, that which one undertakes to do, enterprise, undertaking, anything accomplished by hand, art, industry, or mind

might: same as power–dunamis

longsuffering: patience, endurance, perseverance

joy: gladness

partaker: apart as distinct from the whole, an assigned part, a portion, share

inheritance: an object used in casting or drawing lots, which was either a pebble, or a potsherd, or a bit of wood, the lots of several persons concerned, inscribed with their names, were thrown together into a vase, which was then shaken, and he whose lot fell out first upon the ground was the one chosen, what is obtained by lot, allotted portion

delivered: to draw to one's self, to rescue, to deliver

power: the power of authority (influence) and of right (privilege), the power of rule or government, the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed

darkness: of ignorance respecting divine things and human duties, and the accompanying ungodliness and immorality, together with their consequent misery in hell, persons in whom darkness becomes visible and holds sway

transferred: transpose, transfer, remove from one place to another

Kingdom: of the royal power of Jesus as the triumphant Messiah, of the royal power and dignity conferred on Christians in the Messiah's Kingdom, a kingdom, the territory subject to the rule of a king

redemption and forgiveness: payment of ransom, deliverance, liberated; and released from bondage, letting go as if transgression never committed.

visible: open to view

invisible: unseen, or that which cannot be seen

thrones: to judges i.e., tribunal or bench, governor of the world

dominion: power, lordship, in the New Testament: one who possesses dominion

principality: rule, magistracy, of angels and demons

consist: to be composed of

preeminence: to be first, hold the first place

LESSON 3:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE (CONTINUED)?

Why is it critical for us to stay in the light? Why is this important for our heart, and what is the benefit of this to our lives?

Read Proverbs 4:18–23:

¹⁸ But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn,
which shines brighter and brighter until full day.

¹⁹ The way of the wicked is like deep darkness;
they do not know over what they stumble.

²⁰ My son, be attentive to my words;
incline your ear to my sayings.

²¹ Let them not escape from your sight;
keep them within your heart.

²² For they are life to those who find them,
and healing to all their[a] flesh.

²³ Keep your heart with all vigilance,
for from it flow the springs of life.

You have the opportunity to either stay in the darkness where you don't really know why you're stumbling or in what you're stumbling; or you can live in the light. And the way to live in the light is to pay attention to His purposely spoken words to you—Rhema. It's all the words; it's not concepts, it's not ideas, it's not principles. It's specific words that He's going to speak to you. Pay attention to them and get them into your heart, into your soul. You've got to process these words so that they, which are Spirit and life, become meaningful to you and you understand them. You have to ask, "How does this apply to me? How does this work in my life? How do they fulfill God's promises to me, and how do they lead me to freedom and transformation?"

LESSON 3:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE (CONTINUED)?

Thus, spend much time in the light, with the light, with these words, and don't just rush from thing to thing to thing. Don't just do a devotion every day and say, isn't that nice? But then never pay attention to it or allow it into your heart. As you question why you are stumbling, God will speak about that. He will give us truth and His wisdom. So, pay attention. Go deeper until you experience what He has for you. Don't give up on it but pay attention.

Word Definitions: **attend to:** hearken, pay attention, listen
heart: inner man, mind, will, understanding
retain: to grasp, hold, support, attain, lay hold of, hold fast; words
word: speaking, thing; speech; saying, utterance

What do these stories tell us about the importance of experiencing living in the light? What does that mean for us, and what must be true for us?

Read Mark 4:21–25 and Luke 8:16–18:

A Lamp Under a Basket

²¹ And he said to them, “Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? ²² For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. ²³ If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.” ²⁴ And he said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. ²⁵ For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”

A Lamp Under a Jar

¹⁶ “No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. ¹⁷ For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light. ¹⁸ Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away.”

LESSON 3:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE (CONTINUED)?

He says that what you hear (have received and paid attention to), will be light in you, so proclaim it. By definition this means that you will live it: Are you hearing it? Are you receiving it? Do you believe it? Do you then experience it? If so, then you will proclaim it, but only if you have experienced it.

You cannot stop anywhere along the path; if you do, He considers you a hypocrite. You heard it, you jump to proclaim it, but you never actually experienced it. In this situation, He is going to take it away from you. He's going to take other things away from you. Because you're proclaiming falsely.

Why is it false? Because you've never experienced it. You're teaching about the light without actually walking in the light, so you cannot bear witness to the light. It is completely empty. We do not have a right to proclaim out of emptiness.

If you have received it, then it will be part of your heart, part of your soul, part of you. You have been willing to go through the process, which takes time. Do not try to skip anything (like a child does not try to skip grades, but instead enjoys going from grade to grade), but allow Him to give us what He is experiencing. This is when it is real for us, and we can bear witness to the reality of this to others.

Word Definitions:

- to make manifest:** visible or known what has been hidden or unknown, to manifest, whether by words, or deeds, or in any other way
- secret:** hidden, concealing, keeping secret
- come abroad:** apparent, manifest, evident, known
- take heed:** see, discern, of the bodily eye, with the bodily eye: to be possessed of sight, have the power of seeing, perceive by the use of the eyes: to see, look descry, to turn the eyes to anything: to look at, look upon, gaze at, to perceive by the senses, to feel, to discover by use, to know by experience
- hear:** to attend to, consider what is or has been said, to understand, perceive the sense of what is said
- measure:** determined extent, portion measured off, measure or limit

LESSON 3:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE (CONTINUED)?

What does Paul tell Timothy is a key characteristic for living in the light? What does this mean, and how do we live this out in our spiritual lives?

Read 1 Timothy 6:11–16:

Fight the Good Fight of Faith

¹¹ But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before^[a] Pontius Pilate made the good confession, ¹⁴ to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

Paul starts out with a statement that we are to let Christ be King of kings and pursue truth.

He accentuates this with a statement to pursue, go after righteousness, pursue God and faith in our walk with God. It's a choice we must make. Are you going to pursue it or not? Are you going to pursue Him or not? Paul said to make this one of the desires of your heart. Why? Because He's the light; light supersedes darkness; and you need light to live a powerful life in a world of darkness.

Pursue it in the Word means: go after, chase after it, do everything you can to go after it; spend your energy going after it. Listen to what God has to say; go to God first, make Him preeminent. Chase after it.

LESSON 3:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE (CONTINUED)?

Word Definitions:

- follow after:** run after, to pursue, to seek after eagerly, earnestly endeavor to acquire
- righteousness:** in a broad sense: state of him who is as he ought to be, righteousness, the condition acceptable to God, the doctrine concerning the way in which man may attain a state approved of God, integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, correctness of thinking, feeling, and acting
- Godliness:** reverence, respect, piety towards God
- faith:** conviction of the truth of anything, belief; in the New Testament: of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervor born of faith and joined with it
- love:** brotherly love, affection, good will, benevolence
- patience:** steadfastness, constancy, endurance, in the New Testament: the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings, patiently, and steadfastly
- meekness:** gentleness, mildness
- fight:** to enter a contest: contend in the gymnastic games, to contend with adversaries, fight, metaphor to contend, struggle, with difficulties and dangers, to endeavor with strenuous zeal, strive: to obtain something
- profession:** subjectively: whom we profess to be ours
- quicken:** to cause to live, make alive, give life, by spiritual power to arouse and invigorate, to restore to life
- witness:** to bear witness, i.e., to affirm that one has seen or heard or experienced something, or that he knows it because taught by divine revelation or inspiration

What do each of these verses in Psalm 119 tell us about light and following the light? What are the benefits of doing so?

Read Psalm 119:105–106:

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.

¹⁰⁶ I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to keep your righteous rules.

LESSON 3:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE (CONTINUED)?

He speaks His Word to us—Rhema; this word is a light to my path, so it will give us the ability to know how to walk. In a dark place, pursue His Word and learn what He has to say to you. Pursue that. It'll be a delight to Him. If you have ever been camping, and you take a little hike when it's dark, what do you take with you? A flashlight. Where do you put the flashlight? Right on the path. The light shows us where to go. God's Word is the light that will point us in the right direction on the path.

Word Definitions: **word:** (Dabar – same as Rhema), speech, speaking thing
lamp: glisten, shine brightly
feet: according to the pace of
path: pathway, traveler
perform: to be fulfilled, to persist, to be set, be fixed
keep: guard, observe, give heed

Read Psalm 119:1–3:

Your Word Is a Lamp to My Feet

Aleph

119 ^[a] Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord!

² Blessed are those who keep his testimonies,
who seek him with their whole heart,

³ who also do no wrong,
but walk in his ways!

LESSON 3: WHAT IS OUR ROLE (CONTINUED)?

Blessed are those who walk in His instructions. We'll be guarded and kept safe. We will know exactly how and where to walk. His way.

Word Definition: **keep:** observe, guard with fidelity

Read Psalm 119:16–18:

¹⁶ I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.

Gimel

¹⁷ Deal bountifully with your servant,
that I may live and keep your word.

¹⁸ Open my eyes, that I may behold
wondrous things out of your law.

We are to take delight in His Word and our prayer is that He would open our eyes, that we could have fantastic insight, see extraordinary things that only He can reveal to us so that we can see the truth, understand it, and go forward with expectation of God performing what He is leading us into.

Word Definitions: **take delight in:** sport (have fun)
not to forget: not to cease to care
behold: to regard, show regard to, pay attention to, consider
wondrous things: to be marvelous, be wonderful, be surpassing, be extraordinary

LESSON 3:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE (CONTINUED)?

Read Psalm 119:33–35:

He

³³ Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes;
and I will keep it to the end.^[a]

³⁴ Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.

The key point here is that He will teach us. That means our heart is teachable. This implies that it may take some time – that we're not necessarily going to get it immediately. Do we understand it completely now, does it make sense to us completely now? No, but a good teacher says, just enjoy being in first grade, and let me help you understand it in a different way. Whose responsibility is it? The teacher's. Your role is to stay in class, don't be so frustrated, don't take on the burden of "I should be getting this." Just enjoy being taught.

Let your teacher help you a different way; teach you a different way; share with you a different way as He keeps working with you to understand it. He will take you there and "teach" you. We are just to be willing. And enjoy it.

Word Definitions: **observe:** keep, guard with fidelity
teach: to point out, show, to direct, instruct
make to go: to cause to go, lead, march, tread
delight in: take pleasure in, desire, be pleased with

LESSON 3:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE (CONTINUED)?

Read Psalm 119:97–100:

Mem

⁹⁷ Oh how I love your law!

It is my meditation all the day.

⁹⁸ Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,
for it is ever with me.

⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for your testimonies are my meditation.

¹⁰⁰ I understand more than the aged,^[a]
for I keep your precepts.

We will stay with you, because that's going to lead us to wisdom—out of the darkness that we have to face all the time. We just keep meditating, pondering, processing. We're going to know more than even the wise people in the past. We will stay with you.

Word Definitions: **meditation:** reflection, prayer, devotion

wise: teach wisdom, instruct

understanding: to be prudent, have insight, be circumspect, wisely understand, prosper

Read Psalm 119:129–130:

Pe

¹²⁹ Your testimonies are wonderful;
therefore my soul keeps them.

¹³⁰ The unfolding of your words gives light;
it imparts understanding to the simple.

LESSON 3:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE (CONTINUED)?

His Word is wonderful, it's going to give us life, it's fantastic, and it gives us understanding. Why would we not want that? Commit to abiding in the Word and receiving all that God will give us and do in us. This is a privilege.

Word Definitions: **soul:** self, life, creature, person, appetite, mind, living being, desire, emotion, passion, that which breathes, the breathing substance or being, the inner being of man
keep: observe, guard with fidelity
enter: opening, unfolding, entrance, doorway
understanding: to be prudent, have insight, be circumspect, wisely understand, prosper

Walk in the Light:

What does this speak to about what is important to walking in the light? Why?
What does that mean as we consider our life right now as we are to walk in light?

Read Ephesians 5:8–14:

⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,
"Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

LESSON 3:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE (CONTINUED)?

The primary principle of walking in the light is to have no fellowship or intimacy with darkness. Don't cooperate with darkness or have anything to do with it. But if that's true, what would you need to know? What is clearly dark? Is there anything in your life with which you're having fellowship or deep intimacy as related to the darkness?

If so, then we are instructed to get rid of it, to eliminate it from our life. He will reveal it to us and lead us out of it—separate us from it—so it no longer has influence over us. The issue is whether or not we are willing to allow this. It is likely that we're already having fellowship with it and have already accepted it or allowed it to integrate into our life. It's going to cause conflict to eliminate it as we likely have already become used to it. We are not sure it is darkness, and we have compromised with it and are not sure we can give this up.

He says the problem is that we have it, and He's asking us to remove it, to get rid of it. But it's going to be difficult since it is part of our life.

Light means you're going to have to stay pure and not have any fellowship with this darkness. (It doesn't mean contact. Remember, we're going to have contact with darkness. And there are people who are unbelievers who, by definition, are darkness, but you're supposed to express to them the light. So, you're inviting them to the light. It's not about contact.) We're talking about fellowship, influence, partnership with. The darkness had to become known, and then we have to separate from it.

Word Definitions:

- children:** the name transferred to that intimate and reciprocal relationship formed between men by the bonds of love, friendship, trust, just as between parents and children
- light:** to shine or make manifest
- circumspectly:** exactly, accurately, diligently
- wise:** skilled in letters, cultivated, learned
- understand:** to set or bring together
- will:** what one wishes or has determined shall be done
- filled:** to make full, to fill up, i.e., to fill to the full; to cause to abound

LESSON 3:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE (CONTINUED)?

furnish: or supply liberally abound, liberally supplied; to render full, i.e., to complete; to fill to the top: so that nothing shall be wanting, to full measure, fill to the brim

in the Spirit: in goodness, righteousness, and truth

find out God's will: no fellowship with unfruitful works - darkness

To walk in the light, what is Christ's simple instruction to us? What does this truly mean, and how do we carry this out?

Read John 8:12:

I Am the Light of the World

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

The instruction is very simple: Follow Him. The verb is "join." Do so as a disciple by walking and letting Him lead you, guide you, teach you the truth. Step by step by step. In essence, be like the disciples.

For three years, Jesus had to call out His disciples for all the lousy things they did. He said, "Oh, ye of little faith. Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Herod." Their response was that Jesus must have been mad at them because they forgot the bread; and He says to them, "You are dull, you are hard hearted. What is wrong with you?" He was challenging them all the time—even into the third year of their ministry.

But the one good thing they did was they kept following Him. They stayed with Him and let Christ lead them, guide them and teach them—step by step. That's how He defines disciple: one who follows; stays with Him, stays with Him, stays with Him. As they did, He continued to teach them. He kept persuading them. He kept showing them the truth. And the joy which they had was to keep experiencing Him and His supernatural works all along the way. He wants the same for us.

LESSON 3:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE (CONTINUED)?

And He never brought judgment; He simply challenged them. He understood their struggle and wanted to lead them in the light. If they were going to experience the light and the life of that light, which is all of it, the abundant life, they would need to follow Him. It's a commitment we, too, have to make. Are we willing to follow Him regardless of what we're understanding or not understanding? Just follow. He will lead us to the light.

Word Definitions: **follow:** one who precedes, join him as his attendant, accompany him, to join one as a disciple, become or be his disciple, side with his party

have light: to hold, to have (hold) in the hand, in the sense of wearing, to have (hold) possession of the mind (refers to alarm, agitating emotions, etc.), to hold fast, keep, to have or comprise or involve, to regard or consider

life: life real and genuine, a life active and vigorous, devoted to God, blessed, in the portion even in this world of those who put their trust in Christ

What is the key to being led to freedom? What does this mean in our lives, and how do we carry this out practically?

Read John 8:31–32:

The Truth Will Set You Free

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

If you abide with Him, stay with Him. Experience what He speaks to you and let that become life to you and experience His truth. The truth will make you free. You'll experience all the abundant life, and you won't be living in darkness, you'll be living in the freedom of the truth, and you'll live this beautiful life of freedom.

LESSON 3:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE (CONTINUED)?

Abide in His Word and know the truth to set you free. Your passion would be to have to learn to abide, have a passion for receiving His Word, and then have a passion for truth.

So, what exactly are we saying, what does that mean, how does that work? Ask Him questions and keep going and going and going until you receive that truth. Keep asking until you receive understanding.

So, for example, in Romans 8:1 and 2: It says: Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, for the Spirit of life has set you free from the life of sin and death. The verbs here are past tense—already happened, over. So, naturally, you will be asking yourself, “Why, if I’ve been set free from sin, do I keep sinning, and still struggle with sin?”

Excellent question: Let’s figure this out instead of just deciding this is some theological thing that has no answer. We know we are sinners, so it doesn’t really matter. Maybe we are tempted to just skip over that statement about being free from a life of sin and death. Maybe you don’t really have a passion to know the truth about that statement. He says, if you did have a passion to understand the truth of the statement, you’d be driven to know the answer to that question. If you do, He says, you’ll go deeper into abiding. And He’ll give you the answer to your question. The answer is to abide with Him so you will know the truth, and you will be set free. When you receive this and live it out, you will live in freedom, and you will enjoy being with Him as you abide. Stay with Him as you receive His Word to you. It is not Bible study – learning and just moving on, but instead staying with it, pursuing truth, and receiving the life of it as we reach true freedom.

Word Definitions: **abiding:** leads to learn to know, come to know, get a knowledge of, perceive, feel, understand,
truth: reality, in fact, certainty, which leads to liberty, freedom, release

What do these verses tell us about our role in living in light versus dark. Why is this so important, and how do we carry this out?

Read 2 Corinthians 6:11–18:

¹¹ We have spoken freely to you,[a] Corinthians; our heart is wide open. ¹² You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. ¹³ In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.

LESSON 3:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE (CONTINUED)?

The Temple of the Living God

¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?¹⁵ What accord has Christ with Belial?[b] Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."
¹⁷ Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,
¹⁸ and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

We have already reviewed a truth about light and dark: They can't coexist. God tells us to have no communion with them, have no fellowship with them, so that as you walk through life, as reinforced in Ephesians, that you are to stay separate from darkness. One of the issues that a lot of people have is that they are in fellowship with darkness, maybe in their friendships, in their business dealings, or even in their investments.

These may be things you have done and now struggle with as you find yourself associated with someone who doesn't have the heart for God and is actually bringing darkness into your decision-making process.

An example of this came in a recent discussion with a person with a big business issue and things were not going well. When he began to explain, he shared he was having trouble with revenue and expenses and that profitability and cash flow were low. When he began discussing ownership in the company, he noted that he was in ownership with a family member who was dominating him and never gave him a chance to share what he thought or vote about important

LESSON 3:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE (CONTINUED)?

matters. This family member assumed the position of authority and overruled anything he wanted. He was prideful and arrogant, and no one in the plant liked him. This guy was acting in darkness because he let arrogance and pride rule everything. He made all the decisions even though the two had a shared governance of the company, a 50/50 split.

What would God have him do? Let's see what the Word has to say: You're unequally yoked, so you're light, and you're involved with darkness. And that's why you're having to struggle and see what you have done. What has this light done? Light has acquiesced to the darkness, which is why, because the truth is truth, light and darkness can't be in the same place. And the business is failing because you're not bringing the light, or the covering, or the blessing—rather the darkness is ruling, and you have allowed it to happen. His question then was, “Isn't it holy to be submissive? Isn't that a Christian, holy thing, to turn the other cheek?”

No. Light and darkness can't be in the same place. Are you willing to walk in the light? Because you are doing all this in the flesh—thinking you are in the light, stumbling around, and not experiencing any victory yourself—and hating it. And then you go home every night and your family is a mess—yet you fail to see the implications of it all because you have either not processed this truth, or you have not been willing to go. Are you willing to go the light?

So, let's say you are willing. Now what? Spend time in the Word and process what it says to you.

The businessman does and received this message: “I'm supposed to be light, I'm supposed to be walking in the light, I'm supposed to walk in the truth. Okay, what's the truth? I can't be associated with this anymore. But I'm only 50/50 with this other leader. I can't force anything. What do I do now? I have to go to God and ask Him: ‘What are you going to do about this?’ God says, ‘I'll arrange for him to buy you out.’” Or vice versa.

He heard from God and now needs to pray and pray and pray. He is prompted by God to go to the family member and make a declaration, “This isn't working out. I don't want to work with you anymore. So, either you buy me out or I'll buy you out.” And the family member says, “I want to buy you out because I want to run the business, and I never wanted you here anyway. Let's work it out.”

He needed to see that God had to separate him out and get him to follow the truth so that he could get his life back. He may be losing his business, but does he care? He may be losing his company, but in turn he is getting his life back. And with this money, he can go do something else. Yes. He can go enjoy doing something else that God has planned for him. By the way, why will he be free from this mess? Because he went to the light and followed the truth. He could have been stubborn and lived a life of hell by staying in the darkness. But he chose otherwise.

LESSON 3:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE (CONTINUED)?

This happens with friendships, with issues, with business, with investments, in all areas. If something is unhealthy for us, God will want us to separate from it.

Remember, this is not referring to the balance of having friendships or relationships with those who are unbelievers who, by definition, are living in darkness. We are to bear witness to them so that we can bring the life of God to them, and this does take a form of friendship and relationship. Jesus was a friend of sinners.

What we are talking about here is intimacy, your inner circle and any relationship that has impact and influence over your decision making, your ability to seek and follow God's will. Is there anyone in your close relationships of any kind—business, friendships, etc., who are in darkness and are giving you advice that is causing you problems, sucking the life out of you, or at odds with you? Are they causing you conflict, coming against you, fighting you, debating you, always arguing with you? God asks why you are wasting your time with them. Light cannot be in the same place as darkness.

What do you do? Go to God. Ask if you are supposed to separate from this. Or at what level are you supposed to separate or do something differently? And God says: "I'll show you the truth. Light and dark can't be in the same place, and it can't have intimacy or fellowship. I will show you the way and My path for the resolution to this. You need not act on your own but let Me fulfill now what is needed to give you victory here. Just be willing to go to the truth and then follow Me to freedom. It will go well with you."

Word Definitions: **not yoke with darkness in any way:** be holy, separate from darkness
completely pure: no partnership with darkness
unequally yoked: come under an unequal or different yoke, to have fellowship with one who is not an equal
unbeliever: unfaithful, faithless, (not to be trusted, perfidious), incredible of things
unbelieving, incredulous, without trust (in God)
fellowship: sharing, communion
righteousness: in a broad sense: state of him who is as he ought to be, righteousness, the condition acceptable to God, the doctrine concerning the way in which man may attain a state approved of God, integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, correctness of thinking, feeling, and acting
unrighteousness: the condition of being without law, because ignorant of it, because of violating it, contempt and violation of law, iniquity, wickedness
communion: fellowship, association, community, joint participation, intercourse, the share which one has in anything, participation, intimacy
light: Phos
darkness: Skotos

LESSON 3:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE (CONTINUED)?

concord: agreement

Belial: "worthless or wicked," a name of Satan

part: a portion, share

believing: confiding, trusting, in the New Testament: one who trusts in God's promises, one who is convinced that Jesus has been raised from the dead, one who has become convinced that Jesus is the Messiah and author of salvation

infidel: unbelieving, incredulous, without trust (in God)

agreement: a putting together or joint deposit (of votes), hence approval, assent, agreement

temple: used of the temple at Jerusalem, but only of the sacred edifice (or sanctuary) itself, consisting of the holy place and the Holy of Holies (in classical Greek it is used of the sanctuary or cell of the temple, where the image of gold was placed, which is distinguished from the whole enclosure)

idols: an image, likeness, i.e., whatever represents the form of an object, either real or imaginary, used of the shades of the departed, apparitions, spectres, phantoms of the mind, etc., the image of a heathen god, a false god

come out: departs, of those who leave a place of their own accord

separate: to mark off from others by boundaries

do not touch: to limit; to fasten one's self to, adhere to, cling to

unclean: in thought and life

What do these verses say about the key to staying in the light? What is critical for how we walk with God? How does this play out in our everyday life?

Read Isaiah 5:20–21:

²⁰ Woe to those who call evil good
and good evil,
who put darkness for light
and light for darkness,
who put bitter for sweet
and sweet for bitter!

²¹ Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes,
and shrewd in their own sight!

LESSON 3:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE (CONTINUED)?

There's a switch in the culture of the world: Good is becoming evil, and evil is becoming good. And He says woe to any of us if we are getting mixed up and living with this compromise. Accepting what the world says is acceptable because its expedient for our lives; and either we do not wish to challenge the false, or do not even know it is false (evil).

Christians are getting pushed farther and farther and farther into a corner where we're considered to be evil because of our beliefs. So, if you stand up for Scripture and the truth of Scripture and the absolutes of Scripture, we are considered against the standards of an evil society. Because we do have a problem with how we deliver our message, there's a lot of justification for the world being against us—especially since we tend to bring our message harshly and with judgment. This is not the way God wants us to do it. He wants us to stay in the light and bring the message of truth. Not to be against something, but to be for something—to be for truth, and therefore, speak the truth.

But the world tries to push us as what that means by definition, because we are for something instead of being against something. You say you're for the Bible—but the Bible is against this. Therefore, you're against this culturally. Actually, you are just for the truth of the Bible. You can say: “You can do what you want. You can operate the way you want. I don't have anything against you. This is just something that I personally believe.” Even though good is becoming evil, and evil is becoming good, the key is that God is asking you to stay in the light and stand up for the light. In doing this, it'll go well for you.

Stay in that place knowing that it's going to become trickier and trickier and trickier, which is why this study of light and dark is so critical. We have to know the truth and stand in the truth, stay in the truth, and don't be afraid to have the confidence of the truth.

LESSON 3:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE (CONTINUED)?

Word Definitions: **call:** say, speak, utter, to say, to answer, to say in one's heart, to think, to command, to promise, to intend
evil: bad, disagreeable, malignant, unpleasant, evil (giving pain, unhappiness, misery), displeasing, bad (of its kind - land, water, etc.), bad (of value), worse than, worst (comparison), sad, unhappy
good: pleasant, agreeable, agreeable (to the senses), pleasant (to the higher nature), excellent (of its kind), good, rich, valuable in estimation, appropriate, becoming, better (comparative), glad, happy, prosperous (of man's sensuous nature)
evil: put darkness for light and light for darkness
bitter: deep anger, grieved, vexed
sweet: to be or become sweet or pleasing, pleasant
wise: skillful (in technical work), wise (in administration), shrewd, crafty, cunning, wily, subtle, learned, shrewd (class of men), prudent; in own eyes
understanding, consider, perceive, regard, discern, instructed in own sight

LESSON 4:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE? (CONTINUED)



"The key is to go to God with a surrendered heart—serve Him, and ask Him to guide us to resolve what we are looking at, what decisions to make, etc."

Walk in the Light (Continued):

What do these verses say about the importance of what we look at and what we serve? What does this mean to us, and how do we fulfill this in our everyday lives?

Read Matthew 6:22–24:

²² "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, ²³ but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

²⁴ "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.[a]

He says you cannot serve two masters. We certainly try. He puts His finger on it: usually He says, your master is money. Your decision making, in other words, is all geared around economics. Many people say: God's will is always based on economics, and you're trying to serve what's best for economics. But God says: You can't serve two masters. And then He gives an explanation: You will be loyal to one, and ultimately, you will wind up despising the other. And, if you try to serve both, you wind up despising both.

LESSON 4:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE? (CONTINUED)

When you're serving two masters, you are not serving God. By definition you are serving Satan—Satan because you're serving yourself. You're walking in the flesh; you're in the world following the steal, kill, and destroy darkness of the world, and that's why things aren't going well for you; you're getting beaten down all the time with the consequences of that system, which is to steal and destroy. And if you think you know better, you're serving that master now.

Because you're a believer, why do you think that God will never let believers suffer and struggle? He says: "It's all based on who you serve. Are you going to serve God or not? You cannot serve both. And then He brings it back to what you are looking at. What are you focusing on? Where do you place yourself? Are you looking at Me, seeking My Word and My light, or are you looking at something else? Actually, this means you're looking at darkness. And that's why I set that as a binary choice: either you're looking at Me, which is Light, and I'm the only source of light or you are looking elsewhere, a place that you might think is light, but really is darkness."

Think about just how tiny the lens of your eye is. It's sending a signal to your brain, which is affecting your entire body. So even physiologically it's a gateway to all of your thinking and functioning. So, our choices are really about what we focus on, what we are looking at, based upon who we are serving. The key is to go to God with a surrendered heart—serve Him, and ask Him to guide us to resolve what we are looking at, what decisions to make, etc. He will guide us into all aspects of this—what His will is, because we have a heart to see only what He wants us to look at, and then make decisions based upon His choices—as His will is best and none better.

Word Definitions:

eye: the eyes of the mind, the faculty of knowing

good: simple, single, whole, fulfilling its office, sound

evil: full of labors, annoyances, hardships, pressed and harassed by labors, bringing toils, perils; of a time full of peril to Christian faith and steadfastness; causing pain and trouble, bad, of a bad nature or condition, in a physical sense: diseased or blind; in an ethical sense: evil, wicked, bad

serve: to be a slave, do service, to obey, submit to

hate: pursue with hatred, detest

love: to welcome, to entertain, to be fond of, to love dearly, to be well pleased, to be contented at or with a thing

hold onto: hold to Him firmly, cleave to, paying heed to Him

despise: to condemn, despise, disdain, think little or nothing of

LESSON 4:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE? (CONTINUED)

What does Jesus say here about what to beware of? Why? What does this mean about how we live out our lives?

Read Mark 8:14–20:

The Leaven of the Pharisees and Herod

¹⁴ Now they had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. ¹⁵ And he cautioned them, saying, “Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.”^[a] ¹⁶ And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. ¹⁷ And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? ¹⁸ Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? ¹⁹ When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?” They said to him, “Twelve.” ²⁰ “And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?” And they said to him, “Seven.”

He makes a statement about light to His disciples, but they are not pursuing the truth of it. As we have learned about pursuing, the proper response is to be, “What do You have to teach me?” He’s going to say, “This is what I have to show you.” And your response can be, as you are pursuing light, “What do You have to show me?”

In this story, He says to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod. As you’re walking in the light, you’ve got to be careful of two things. The first: As you walk in the light, be careful that you don’t drift into everything becoming a system, like the Pharisees did—a set of rules and laws. You don’t want to put everything in a box, operating only in that box, focusing only on what you are doing; only allowing people like you in that box and everybody else that doesn’t fit is not allowed in. This looks like many churches, denominations, and the divisions of the Christian community. You’ve got to believe a certain way, or we don’t let you in because you’ve let the leaven of the Pharisees control how you think, and you go to judgment. He says beware of that. It’s not a system. It’s a relationship, because freedom comes from the way of life.

LESSON 4:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE? (CONTINUED)

The second is being like Herod, who is known for his self-centeredness and seeking his own pleasure. He said beware of that leaven that you don't do everything geared around you and what you want to do according to your self-determination. Rather, be willing to surrender your will to Him and be careful that you don't start interpreting everything according to what you think you want. Don't get into a system and continue to surrender your will to His will. That is walking in the light.

Word Definitions: **beware of leaven of Pharisees:** law, rules

Herod: self-centeredness, hedonistic, materialistic pleasures

reasoned: to bring together different reasons, to reckon up the reasons, to reason, resolve in one's mind, deliberate

to perceive: with the mind, to understand, to have understanding, to think upon, heed, ponder, consider

understand: to set or bring together, to put (as it were) the perception with the thing perceived, to set or join together in the mind

hardened: to make the heart dull, to grow hard, callous, become dull, lose the power of understanding

As we walk in the light, what are we to be careful of? What does that mean, and how do we apply this to our lives?

Read 2 Corinthians 11:12–15:

¹² And what I am doing I will continue to do, in order to undermine the claim of those who would like to claim that in their boasted mission they work on the same terms as we do. ¹³ For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

LESSON 4:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE? (CONTINUED)

He said, as you walk in the light, there's something you need to be careful of: deceitfulness. Deceitfulness is actually being promoted, given, and spoken by other believers who claim that they are holy and look righteous, but are not really righteous. They disguise themselves as righteous.

If you walk in the light, God will show this deception—He'll show us their heart and the truth about what is really going on. We will have a sense that someone coming with harshness or judgment is doing the opposite of what they're saying or what is Biblically true. So, the more you walk in the light, what do you know? More of the truth. And the truth is already there so you will know: They're not following what we know to be the truth, so something isn't right. God will say, "There's not righteousness here, there's deceit here." You will start to understand that you have this sense and that you shouldn't follow this deceit.

Be on the watch for things that are not right. Do not neglect this, but when you have a sense of this, pursue this further and let God guide you into how to respond. One thing is certain: You are never to accept or follow this deceit.

Word Definitions: **be careful of Satan:** disguises

false apostle: one who falsely claims to be an ambassador of Christ

deceitful worker: crafty, guile

transform: to change the figure of, appearance of

righteousness: the condition acceptable to God, the doctrine concerning the way in which man may attain a state approved of God, integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, correctness of thinking, feeling, and acting

What does God say about the snare of riches? How are we to reconcile this with the necessity of provision and finances? What does this mean to us practically?

Read 1 Timothy 6:6–11:

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and[a] we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

LESSON 4:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE? (CONTINUED)

Fight the Good Fight of Faith

¹¹ But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.

He says that if you're placing the desire for wealth above everything else, it's a trap. It's going to snare you. If you think it's a good way to go and it's not going to wind up hurtful and injurious to you, then you're living in foolishness. He does say: "I want you to be clear on something, it's not money itself. It's the love of it, the pursuit of it as your primary decision-making focus that traps you." He wants you to live in the simplicity of dealing with this issue properly and ask what He would you have you do here? How do you want to provide and bless me? In Matthew, He reiterates this truth: Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness and all these things shall be given, shall be provided, shall be blessed to you.

He wants to bless you, which includes financial things. He wants to give you freedom. He wants to give you what you need, more income than expenses. He wants to have you live in safety, in security. He doesn't want you to live in fear. And He wants to bless you abundantly. He wants to give you provision to the level that you are living a joyful life, not more and more and more to make you as wealthy as possible; but instead to make you as free as possible.

In the context of your life, in whatever the job is that is making however much money, ask God to give you the freedom to live at that level and enjoy it. Maybe you're the CEO, which likely means that you're going to make more than the guy working at a different job in the company. That's the lot in life you've been given. You can be either burdened by that and trapped by that or live in the joy of and freedom of that as He so leads you. Just do not love it and pursue it in your own decision making. Do not let it be a trap to you, but rather learn to seek God instead.

LESSON 4:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE? (CONTINUED)

Word Definitions: **content:** to be possessed of unfailing strength, to be strong, to suffice, to be enough, to defend, ward off, to be satisfied, to be contented
rich: to have abundance, of outward possessions
temptation: the trial of man's fidelity, integrity, virtue, constancy, an enticement to sin, whether arising from the desires or from the outward circumstances, an internal temptation to sin
snare: trap, noose, of snares in which birds are entangled and caught, implies unexpectedly, suddenly, because birds and beasts are caught unaware
foolish: not understanding, unwise
hurtful: injurious
lusts: desire, craving, longing, desire for what is forbidden
drown: to plunge into the deep, to sin
destruction: ruin, destroy, death for the destruction of the flesh, said of the external ills and troubles by which the lusts of the flesh are subdued and destroyed
perdition: destroying, utter destruction, a perishing, ruin
love of money: avarice
evil: of a bad nature, not such as it ought to be, of a mode of thinking, feeling, acting, base, wrong, wicked, troublesome, injurious, pernicious, destructive, baneful
pierced: to torture one's soul with sorrows
sorrows: consuming grief, pain
flee: away, seek safety by flight, to shun or avoid, abhorrent, especially vices, to be saved by flight, to escape safely out of danger

What does Jesus say about what happens when you walk in darkness? Why is that important to us? What is His admonition about the light? What does that mean, and how do we live this out?

Read John 12:27–36:

The Son of Man Must Be Lifted Up

²⁷ "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹ The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰ Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will

LESSON 4:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE? (CONTINUED)

draw all people to myself.”³³ He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. ³⁴ So the crowd answered him, “We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” 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.”

The Unbelief of the People

When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them.

He says, particularly since you as believers have Him living in you: In order not to walk in darkness, what do you need to do? Walk in the light, which is Him. He is the Light; and we walk in the light through belief. It's a choice that you have to make.

If we do not choose to walk with Him, in Him, in the light, we are by default in the darkness, and then we are wandering around, not knowing where we're going. What is that a picture of? Being lost. Just wandering around.

And that's a picture of the Israelites in the desert. They crossed the Red Sea, and God said: “My promise is to take you to the promised land, and I'll deliver you into this beautiful place; and I'll defeat the enemy. And you just have to be willing to go.” And they said what?

Nothing. They're not going. They're going to stay in darkness. They were afraid of what they thought might happen. They were familiar with their current situation. They thought they knew better. So, they wandered around for 40 years. Literally in hell, where it was hot with no trees. God did protect them by covering them with a cloud so they didn't burn up, and at night they had fire to keep them warm. But, for 40 years they wandered around and did nothing, living in a terrible, awful place.

LESSON 4:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE? (CONTINUED)

God had made a promise. He had spoken His will, which they heard, but they said refused and instead stayed in darkness. He did not force His will or provide His will. He said: "I allow your choice to stand." He was angry because of their choice (not because of their disobedience per se, but because they were not willing to receive the wonderful provision that He had promised to give). So, for 40 years, they wandered around lost in darkness.

You have a choice to make. If you want to get out of the darkness, you have to choose to walk in the light. Experiencing the grandeur of the light is not automatic. He always offers it, and it is always available. We just have to choose to receive it.

Word Definitions: **glorify:** to praise, extol, magnify, celebrate, to honor, do honor to, hold in honor, to make glorious, adorn with luster, clothe with splendor, to impart glory to something, render it excellent, to make renowned, render illustrious, to cause the dignity and worth of some person or thing to become manifest and acknowledged
judgment: opinion or decision given concerning anything, especially concerning justice and injustice, right or wrong, sentence of condemnation, damnatory judgment, condemnation and punishment
walk: to make one's way, progress; to make use of opportunities
come upon: to seize upon, take possession of, of evils overtaking one, of the last day overtaking the wicked with destruction, of a demon about to torment one not knows where he goes: not who or where to lead under, bring under
believe: to think to be true, to be persuaded of, to credit, place confidence in the thing believed, to credit, have confidence
in: into, unto, to, towards, for, among
children: those who revere God as their Father, the pious worshippers of God, those who in character and life resemble God, those who are governed by the Spirit of God, repose the same calm and joyful trust in God which children do in their parents (Rom. 8:14, Gal. 3:26), and hereafter in the blessedness and glory of the life eternal will openly wear this dignity of the sons of God

Read John 12:42–50:

⁴² Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

LESSON 4:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE? (CONTINUED)

Jesus Came to Save the World

⁴⁴ And Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. ⁴⁵ And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. ⁴⁶ I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. ⁴⁷ If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. ⁴⁸ The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. ⁴⁹ For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. ⁵⁰ And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."

Jesus says that He has come as a light and to the world that: "Whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness." And then, "My Word is what's going to judge." He says that the Word, the truth, are what's going to judge you. And it's absolute. It's a double-edged sword, so it judges on both sides; that is if you follow what He's telling you, you will receive the blessing of that, the wonder of that, the abundant life of that will come about. If you choose to reject it, the opposite happens, and you then suffer the consequences of that choice.

So, for example, we read a verse that said that light and dark can't be in the same place. He says: "You do understand that that's so. Therefore, separate yourself." Many believers refuse. In essence, what are they saying? It doesn't matter. God will protect me anyway. God will take care of me anyway. But remember what God said: "Light and darkness cannot occupy the same space. And you're in fellowship with darkness, and I've just told you that you have to separate from that in order to be blessed. Being attached to darkness is causing you the trouble. That's why you're in turmoil. That's why there's trouble there, because light and dark cannot be in the same spot."

LESSON 4:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE? (CONTINUED)

So, you have to separate. But how do you do that? This is tricky. God says, "Let Me give you wisdom of how to best do that. You don't even have to do that yourself as long as you have a heart to follow Me. If you believe that what I speak is true (My Word) then you will trust that My Word is true. Absolutely true. And I know what is best and none better." We know that He's asked us to separate, we've received that. But we don't know how. We need to ask God to give us the wisdom of how He wants us to do that. He says that He will show us how as long as we follow Him and allow Him to do the work. Have a heart to go, and He'll show us the answer.

If you do this yourself, you will actually make a mess of it and create even more problems. So, He wants us to keep asking Him: Now what? Now what? Now what? He will give us life based upon truth, and we can't alter that truth. He won't suspend that light all of a sudden for you. You hope that light and dark can be in the same place for you. Sorry, it stands on its own, and no one is exempt.

So, it is critical that we understand this clearly. We must constantly ask what is the truth? What's the truth? Because the truth will set us free based on the fact that it is absolute. His words will judge us. Thus, follow the light, the truth—always.

Word Definitions: **light:** God is light because light has the extremely delicate, subtle, pure, brilliant quality, of truth and its knowledge, together with the spiritual purity associated with it, that which is exposed

darkness: due to want of light, metaphor used of ignorance of divine things, and its associated wickedness, and the resultant misery in hell

hear: to attend to, consider what is or has been said, to understand, perceive the sense of what is said

sayings (word): Rhema

keep: observe

judge: pronounce an opinion concerning right and wrong

receive: to receive what is offered; take as one's own, welcome

word: Logos (what stands behind Rhema)

speak: articulate; disclose

LESSON 4:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE? (CONTINUED)

Call on the Lord for everything:

When we are having difficulty or trouble, what are we to do? Why? How do we live this out practically in our lives?

Read Psalm 27:1–4:

The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation
Of David.

27 The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold^[a] of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

² When evildoers assail me
to eat up my flesh,
my adversaries and foes,
it is they who stumble and fall.

³ Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me,
yet^[b] I will be confident.

⁴ One thing have I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to inquire^[c] in his temple.

We know that there are issues in the darkness. He says as you encounter these, don't lose heart—believe that He's going to bring about His goodness; and the key to it is to come to Him; inquire and ask for the truth.

LESSON 4:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE? (CONTINUED)

You go to God and ask Him to show you what the truth is: Something's not right here; I have opposition, I have a problem, I have an issue. The enemy seems to be gaining some ground here. What's happening? I'm not experiencing joy. I'm experiencing some difficulty. I'm coming to You, where there's beauty and there's peace and there's joy. Would You show me the truth? I expect that You are going to bring me the good answer.

We do not need to stay in darkness. His light will bring resolution—just ask and follow.

Word Definitions: **strength:** place or means of safety, protection, refuge, stronghold

afraid: to fear, tremble, revere, dread, be in awe

confident: to trust, trust in, to have confidence, be confident, to be bold, to be secure

behold: to see, perceive, look, prophesy, provide, to see as a seer in the ecstatic state, with the intelligence, to see (by experience)

beauty: kindness, pleasantness, delightfulness, favor

enquire: to seek, look for, to consider, reflect

Read Psalm 27:13–14:

¹³ I believe that I shall look[a] upon the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living!

¹⁴ Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!

Word Definitions: **believed:** to support, confirm, be faithful, uphold, nourish

goodness: good things, goods, property, fairness, beauty, joy, prosperity

wait: look for, hope, expect

LESSON 4:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE? (CONTINUED)

courage: to strengthen, prevail, harden, be strong, become strong, be courageous, be firm, grow firm, be resolute

strengthen: to be determined, to make oneself alert, strengthen oneself, confirm oneself, persist in, prove superior to

In these two sets of verses in Psalm 18, what does He say to us about what to do when we are in great difficulty, in great trouble? Why is this so important? What does this mean regarding how we approach the issues of life?

Read Psalm 18:1–6:

The Lord Is My Rock and My Fortress

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, the servant of the Lord, who addressed the words of this song to the Lord on the day when the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. He said:

18 I love you, O Lord, my strength.

² The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

³ I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised,
and I am saved from my enemies.

⁴ The cords of death encompassed me;
the torrents of destruction assailed me;[a]

⁵ the cords of Sheol entangled me;
the snares of death confronted me.

⁶ In my distress I called upon the Lord;
to my God I cried for help.

From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry to him reached his ears.

LESSON 4:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE? (CONTINUED)

Word Definitions: **call:** call out, recite, read, cry out, proclaim, to call, cry, utter a loud sound, to call unto, cry (for help), call (with name of God)
praised: to be praised, be made praiseworthy, be commended, be worthy of praise
enemy: personal and global
distress: adversary, foe, enemy, oppressor, hard pebble, flint

Read Psalm 18:25–28:

²⁵ With the merciful you show yourself merciful;
with the blameless man you show yourself blameless;
²⁶ with the purified you show yourself pure;
and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous.
²⁷ For you save a humble people,
but the haughty eyes you bring down.
²⁸ For it is you who light my lamp;
the Lord my God lightens my darkness.

He says: When you're in trouble, what do you do? Call out. Call out. Call out with a loud voice that you need help. He says: "How about if I answer you; I'll show myself to you and ultimately give you light as I did in verse 28." What do you need? Light. You can expect it, but you will need to call out to God and ask.

He says, "Start practicing. Come to Me first, come to Me first, come to Me first; you're already struggling because you're seeing darkness having an impact on you. Why do you want to stay there and figure it out on your own? This means you're going to stay in darkness longer. Why don't you just come to Me versus get deeper in it? Just come to me."

LESSON 4:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE? (CONTINUED)

Word Definition: **enlighten:** to cause to shine

Do not judge, including judgement of self:

What does Paul tell us about judging, including ourselves? Why is this so important to learn? How do we apply this in our situations?

Read 1 Corinthians 4:1–5:

The Ministry of Apostles

4 This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. ³ But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴ For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵ Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

Paul says, "First of all: I don't let anybody judge me." That's an interesting statement. Christians are really backward in this area. Most Christians have allowed people to judge them, and they've become oppressed under this. "People are saying things about me; have said things to me; are judging me; telling me I need to do this and do that; change this and change that, and they're all wrapped up in it." And Paul says, "I never allow that to happen. They don't have a right to do it. I don't judge you, and I don't even judge myself."

You don't have the right to judge anybody else, because the only one who is judge is God. He's the judge; and we have just learned something about this. Jesus said He is not the judge. Rather, what's going to judge? His words. The truth. And that's why living in the light is so critical.

LESSON 4:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE? (CONTINUED)

God invites you to this grand life, the abundant life, which He has ready to give to you. You are to just walk in the light—to have a heart to do it—and this is what judges you.

And that's why Paul says, "You don't have a right to judge anybody else because the truth is what judges them all, and you're not the arbitrator of that. You're not the giver. You're not the overseer of that. You're not responsible for that. If I were you, I would just focus on enjoying your own life. You don't need to be so careful about what anybody else is doing or not doing, which, by the way, is why He says to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees. Do not set up your own judgments—your own system—including for yourself. Live in freedom and let other people's choices be theirs to deal with.

The beauty of this is that the Kingdom of God is just a step away. So now we can always respond: How about now? "Surrender your will, come back to Me, and I can fix everything that you've just ruined. How about now?" Do not live in judgment but release the burden, including your own, your own living in the guilt of the past and seek the answers from God.

Word Definitions: **steward:** manager of household or of household affairs, especially a steward, manager, superintendent (whether free-born or, as was usually the case, a freed man or a slave) to whom the head of the house or proprietor has entrusted the management of his affairs, the care of receipts and expenditures, and the duty of dealing out the proper portion to every servant and even to the children not yet of age, the manager of a farm or landed estate, an overseer, the superintendent of the city's finances, the treasurer of a city (or of treasurers or quaestors of kings), metaphor, the apostles and other Christian teachers and bishops and overseers
mystery: general mysteries, religious secrets, confided only to the initiated and not to ordinary mortals, a hidden or secret thing, not obvious to the understanding, a hidden purpose or counsel, secret will, of God: the secret counsels which govern God in dealing with the righteous, which are hidden from ungodly and wicked men but plain to the godly
faithful: of persons who show themselves faithful in the transaction of business, the execution of commands, or the discharge of official duties, one who kept his plighted faith, worthy of trust, that can be relied on
judge: to investigate, examine, enquire into, scrutinize, sift, question, specifically in a forensic sense of a judge to hold an investigation, to interrogate, examine the accused or witnesses, to be judge of, estimate, determine (the excellence or defects of any person or thing)

LESSON 4:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE? (CONTINUED)

Watch for the end:

What does Paul say about the importance of watching for things that happen in the end times? What does this mean for us in the times we live in, and how do we thus approach the times we live in?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11:

The Day of the Lord

5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers,^[a] you have no need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵ For you are all children^[b] of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night.⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

As you see the signs of things changing in the world, Paul said: “You’re not of the darkness, you’re the light; and those changes are going to affect you. You can still live in the light through these dark changes that are getting darker and darker.”

He says two things: “Be alert and start paying attention. Don’t be caught ignorant and say that being in the dark doesn’t matter. It does matter.”

LESSON 4:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE? (CONTINUED)

This course is being filmed in the summer of 2020. We've just seen the entire world affected by a virus that has shut down the world. It's not just U.S. centric, it's worldwide centric. This is significant. The economies of the world are being affected by it as well. That's also significant. If you're in the light, you don't say that doesn't matter. You say, I better pay attention because it says to watch for things that are happening. Be aware of things and let God give you wisdom for things. We've entered into a period of great uncertainty. And because you're in a great time of uncertainty, you can't do things the way you used to do things, as we used to operate in semi certainty; all the models that we were used to may not be the same. We can't operate as we always have. That thinking will no longer work.

Perhaps we are going to need new wisdom. You can read 10 papers, and they're all different. You can't rely on anybody to tell you what to do. Since we are in the light, the Father tells us we do not need to stay in darkness, but rather to go to the light, so we just need to go to Him and ask, "Father, what would You have me do?" His response is that we must pay attention. Watch and be aware. As things dramatically change in these times, do not get lazy and stay in darkness and miss what He would lead us into, since it is available to us. Be alert and pay attention.

Word Definitions:

- thief:** embezzler, pilferer, the name is transferred to false teachers, who do not care to instruct men, but abuse their confidence for their own gain
- peace:** serene – shalom
- safety:** firmness, stability, certainty, undoubted truth, security from enemies and dangers
- sudden:** unexpected, unforeseen
- destruction:** ruin, destroy, death, for the destruction of the flesh, said of the external ills and troubles by which the lusts of the flesh are subdued and destroyed
- travail:** pain, intolerable anguish, in reference to the dire calamities precede the advent of the Messiah
- overtake:** to lay hold of so as to make one's own, to obtain, attain to, to make one's own, to take into one's self, appropriate, to seize upon, take possession of, of evils overtaking one, of the last day overtaking the wicked with destruction, of a demon about to torment one
- not sleep:** to be indifferent to one's salvation
- watch:** give strict attention to, be cautious, active, to take heed lest through remission and indolence some destructive calamity suddenly overtake one
- sober:** to be calm and collected in spirit; circumspect, deliberate
- comfort:** to call to one's side, call for, summon, to address, speak to, (call to, call upon), which may be done in the way of exhortation, entreaty, comfort, instruction, etc.
- edify:** to promote growth in Christian wisdom, affection, grace, virtue, holiness, blessedness, to grow in wisdom and piety

LESSON 4:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE? (CONTINUED)

Conclusion:

As we work out our own salvation (which we discussed above), what will be the outcome of walking in the light? What can we expect, and what then will motivate us to walk in the light?

Read Philippians 2:12–18:

Lights in the World

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷ Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

We've already talked about working out our own salvation (our unique path of following God's path of light for us). The wonderful truth of this is that the course that you have will become purveyors of the light for others. We are to hold on to the words, the truth that you're given in life and let our life become valuable. The value is going to be receiving the light and having the light shine through you. That's the purpose of the Kingdom.

You start to have joy, you start to have abundance, and it starts to be known and other people start to realize it. They can experience that, too, because your light is spreading. Your life will not be in vain. Your light will be shining.

LESSON 4:

WHAT IS OUR ROLE? (CONTINUED)

Word Definitions: **hold on:** to have or hold upon, apply, to observe, attend to, to give attention to, to hold towards, hold forth

word: Logos

life: of the absolute fullness of life, both essential and ethical, which belongs to God, and through Him both to the hypostatic "logos" and to Christ in whom the "logos" put on human nature, life real and genuine, a life active and vigorous, devoted to God, blessed, in the portion even in this world of those who put their trust in Christ, but after the resurrection to be consummated by new accessions (among them a more perfect body), and to last forever

not in vain: empty, vain, devoid of truth, of places, vessels, etc., which contain nothing, of men, empty handed, without a gift, metaph. destitute of spiritual wealth, of one who boasts of his faith as a transcendent possession, yet is without the fruits of faith, metaphor of endeavors, labors, acts, which result in nothing, fruitless, without effect, vain of no purpose

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AND OUR CALL TO "GIVE IT AWAY"



"God is giving us the abundant life, the absolute exceptional life that He has planned for us, if we would allow Him to lead us into it, the enemy's not going to steal it from us."

What are the results of His children walking in the light?

What do these verses in Psalm 18 relate as the benefits of walking in the light? What do they practically mean to us in our lives?

Read Psalm 18:1–3:

The Lord Is My Rock and My Fortress
To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, the servant of the Lord, who addressed the words of this song to the Lord on the day when the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. He said:

18 I love you, O Lord, my strength.

² The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

³ I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised,
and I am saved from my enemies.

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Word Definitions: **strength:** prevail, harden, be strong, become strong, be courageous, be firm, grow firm, be resolute
rock: as stronghold of Jehovah, of security
fortress: fastness, stronghold
deliverer: to bring into security, bring to safety
strength: security, solid, rock
trust: to seek refuge, flee for protection, to put trust in (God), confide or hope in (God)
buckler: shield
salvation: deliverance, rescue, safety, welfare, prosperity
tower: high place, refuge, secure height, retreat, stronghold, refuge (of God)

Read Psalm 18:16–19:

16 He sent from on high, he took me;
he drew me out of many waters.
17 He rescued me from my strong enemy
and from those who hated me,
for they were too mighty for me.
18 They confronted me in the day of my calamity,
but the Lord was my support.
19 He brought me out into a broad place;
he rescued me, because he delighted in me.

Word Definitions: **deliver:** to take away, snatch away, to rescue, recover, to deliver (from enemies or troubles or death), to deliver from sin and guilt, (Hophal) to be plucked out
prevented: to go before, go in front, be in front, to lead, be beforehand, anticipate, forestall
calamity: distress, burden
place: broad or roomy place, wide, expanses
delighted: delight in, take pleasure in, desire, be pleased with

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Read Psalm 18:28–36:

- ²⁸ For it is you who light my lamp;
the Lord my God lightens my darkness.
- ²⁹ For by you I can run against a troop,
and by my God I can leap over a wall.
- ³⁰ This God—his way is perfect;[a]
the word of the Lord proves true;
he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.
- ³¹ For who is God, but the Lord?
And who is a rock, except our God?—
- ³² the God who equipped me with strength
and made my way blameless.
- ³³ He made my feet like the feet of a deer
and set me secure on the heights.
- ³⁴ He trains my hands for war,
so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.
- ³⁵ You have given me the shield of your salvation,
and your right hand supported me,
and your gentleness made me great.
- ³⁶ You gave a wide place for my steps under me,
and my feet did not slip.

Word Definitions: **way:** road, distance, journey, manner

perfect: complete, whole, entire, sound, healthful, entire (of time), wholesome, unimpaired, innocent, having integrity, what is complete or entirely in accord with truth and fact

high place: ridge, height

great: to increase greatly or exceedingly, to make great, enlarge, do much

enlarge: to be or grow wide, be or grow large, to be widened, be enlarged, broad or roomy pasture

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There are wonderful benefits to us for walking in the light:

1. God is our stronghold, a refuge in the dark world. You'll be saved from your enemies; He has strength when we need it. He is our strength.
2. He shields. He shields us from any darts that the enemy is throwing at us.
3. He brings light to darkness. He shows us how to make war against the enemy. We trust Him as He makes His way perfect.

All of these aspects are protection, protection, protection, which implies that the place you're in is dangerous. He is going to be your shield to protect you, be your refuge, your strength. He will rescue us and deliver us from trouble. He can restore what has been ruined and bring it back to wholeness. He can bring us to a broad place. When you think of coming to a broad place in a large place, a wide place, what does that bring to mind? A big, open, large region that's totally open to you that is stable, secure, and free, and not constricted in any way.

And if you look at these broad places, whenever you go to a large, open place, it implies freedom and that you're not constricted in any way.

God is giving us the abundant life, the absolute exceptional life that He has planned for us, if we would allow Him to lead us into it, the enemy's not going to steal it from us.

As you walk in the light, what does God promise He will do with the obstacles in our way? How will He lead us on our path? What does that look like in our everyday lives?

Read Isaiah 45:1–6:

Cyrus, God's Instrument

45 Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped,
to subdue nations before him
and to loose the belts of kings,
to open doors before him
that gates may not be closed:

² “I will go before you
and level the exalted places,^[a]
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze

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and cut through the bars of iron,
³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and the hoards in secret places,
that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I name you, though you do not know me.
⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other,
besides me there is no God;
I equip you, though you do not know me,
⁶ that people may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is none besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.

He says: “I’m going to break the bars of iron things that are obstacles. I will break them down, open the gates, make the crooked places straight, lead you, and guide you. I’m going to show you secrets. Show you covenant. I will show you all the things you need and give you all the wisdom you need. The obstacles in your path or the paths that are difficult to maneuver, I’ll just overcome these and straighten things out. I’ll lead you and guide you directly into the pathway that I have for you to receive all the wonderful things I have for you. I’ll do all the work. You only have to follow.”

Why is this necessary? We live in a world that is dark, one that is full of gates, bars, and trouble that block our paths. These are too difficult to maneuver on our own. We cannot overcome this on our own, we need Him to handle it. The big benefit of walking in the light is that we have been given a privilege. Who can do all this? God. Nothing is too difficult for Him. He can do it. We can trust Him completely. The solution to these obstacles, these paths is natural: so, we need the One who promises to make things happen.

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Word Definitions: **subdue:** beat down, beat out
loose: to be opened, be let loose
open: to be opened, be let loose
shut: closed up, closely joined, shut up
crooked places: what is supposed to be of high honor
straight: to be right, be straight, be level, be upright, be just, be lawful, be smooth, to go straight, to be pleasing, be agreeable, be right, to be straightforward
break in pieces: break, break in or down, rend violently, wreck, crush, quench, to break, rupture
cut: hew, chop, cut down, hew down, hew off, cut off, cut in two, shave off
treasure: storehouse, treasure (gold, silver, etc.)
darkness: obscurity, secret place
riches of secret places: hide, conceal, bury, concealing, secretly laying (participle), hidden carefully

What is the amazing benefit of walking in the light? What does this imply to us that is broader than just financial? Why is this important to us?

Read Psalm 118:25–29:

²⁵ Save us, we pray, O Lord!
O Lord, we pray, give us success!
²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
We bless you from the house of the Lord.
²⁷ The Lord is God,
and he has made his light to shine upon us.
Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,
up to the horns of the altar!
²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God; I will extol you.
²⁹ Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!

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He going to give us prosperity. The word means His abundant definition of goodness. It's not just wealth, but it's that all elements of life will come together: financial freedom, relationships that are healthy and resolved, burdens that are released, trouble and difficulties that are resolved, etc. You'll have great joy in all that. He brings answers, and His work for you to have true abundant life, real experience in everything, and we can rejoice because of it. The light is going to lead you to that, and you can trust it.

Word Definition: **prosperity:** to advance, prosper, make progress, succeed, be profitable, to prosper, to make prosperous, bring to successful issue, cause to prosper, to show or experience prosperity

As we walk on this path, what happens to us on this path? Why is that so interesting and so important for us? How do we stay on that path?

Read Proverbs 4:18–23:

- ¹⁸ But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn,
which shines brighter and brighter until full day.
- ¹⁹ The way of the wicked is like deep darkness;
they do not know over what they stumble.
- ²⁰ My son, be attentive to my words;
incline your ear to my sayings.
- ²¹ Let them not escape from your sight;
keep them within your heart.
- ²² For they are life to those who find them,
and healing to all their^[a] flesh.
- ²³ Keep your heart with all vigilance,
for from it flow the springs of life.

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Because we are in the light, He says the path that we are walking on continues to become more clear. This is probably one of the greatest benefits we have. Everything you're deciding, everything you're trying to understand is usually fuzzy. It's not clear to you. You're not sure which way to go. You might think one way looks interesting and consider going that way, but you aren't sure because you can see some negatives. Maybe you should go another way, but you are not sure because you could see some negatives there, too. So, you're at a loss as to which is best. So, pay attention. God will lead you down the path that He will make clear to you, step by step.

Wait until it's clear. Keep asking for Him to show the light. And if you don't feel good about it, then keep going. It's okay. You're looking for the truth, looking for the truth, looking for the truth. And He'll keep showing you. This is the way. Turn right, turn left. Be obedient, pursue this and He'll keep showing you. He will make the path clear.

Word Definitions: **path becomes clear, perfected:** to be firm, be stable, be established, to be set up, be fixed, to be firmly established, be secure, be enduring, to be fixed, be securely determined, to be directed aright, be fixed aright, be steadfast (moral sense), to prepare, be ready, to be prepared, be arranged, be settled
life: revival, renewal
health: healing, cure

What does God promise as we walk in the light? What does that mean to us? What is required of us?

Read Psalm 37:1–8:

He Will Not Forsake His Saints

^[a] Of David.

37 Fret not yourself because of evildoers;

be not envious of wrongdoers!

² For they will soon fade like the grass

and wither like the green herb.

³ Trust in the Lord, and do good;

dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.^[b]

⁴ Delight yourself in the Lord,

and he will give you the desires of your heart.

⁵ Commit your way to the Lord;

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trust in him, and he will act.

⁶ He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,
and your justice as the noonday.

⁷ Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,
over the man who carries out evil devices!

⁸ Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath!
Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.

First, we are not to fret or be anxious, because that would mean we are not walking in the light and are trying to figure things out on our own. Rather, we are to delight ourselves in Him, in the relationship; and have a heart to seek the light. This means we have a heart to walk with Him, pursue Him, follow Him. We do not have to be perfect at it, as He will teach us—we just have to have a heart to go. This may be confusing along the way, but we are to keep going. To stay with Him. This will delight Him because He gets to spend time with you, and that's His joy: to have a relationship with you, to continue showing you. If you delight in Him, He says He will give you the desires of your heart.

Where are those desires? In your heart, in your soul, and they are unique to you. As He plays out His goodness, His lighted path for you, He matches up the things of life with things that excite you. It's not you chasing them. Because if you chase them, you've just stopped it by definition. Why? You're pursuing now your own will and are serving only yourself. Remember, seek first the Kingdom and His righteousness. He will give you the desires of your heart. He delights in giving you the desires of your heart so that it starts to match up with the things that excite you. He's positioning things, circumstances, situations that excite you, and things that He knows excite you. What a beautiful benefit of walking in the light.

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Word Definitions: **trust:** have confidence, to be bold

good: pleasant, agreeable, agreeable (to the senses), pleasant (to the higher nature), excellent (of its kind), rich, valuable in estimation, appropriate, becoming, better (comparative), glad, happy, prosperous (of man's sensuous nature)

dwelt: abide, reside

feed: pasture, tend, graze

delight: to be happy about, take exquisite delight, to make merry over

heart: inner man, mind, will, soul, understanding

commit: roll down same path

come to pass: make happen

rest: to be silent, be still

wait: dance with

Our call is to give it away—Covenant:

As part of the covenant, and as we walk in the light, what will we be asked to do?
What will be our joy in being part of this, and why is this so important to God's bigger story?

Read Isaiah 60:1–3:

The Future Glory of Israel

60 Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.

³ And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

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As we live in the light and experience the light day to day, what's going to happen? It will draw others. They're going to be drawn to the light and the life they see in us. How does this happen? They will see what we are experiencing and say, “How come you're experiencing joy? How come you're having clarity? How did you make that decision? How did that supernatural thing happen?” And, of course, we're going to bear witness to Him, to the Light (not to ourselves). How did that work? We walk in the light. What does that mean? It means that we've learned to walk in the light, and we can show you how we do it. We then can guarantee if they, too, walk in the light, they will experience the same thing.

How can we guarantee that? Because if they are walking in the light, God will do these same things for them. This is absolute. We've experienced it, and we know that this is true from the Word and that the Word is absolute. It will happen for any of us who walk in the light.

But how do we teach someone to do that? They will have to follow Him into the light, just as we did. They have to learn to follow Him in the light, but we can help them learn this. When they agree to follow Him, one of the things He'll ask them to do will be what? To give it away, too! See how beautiful that is? And then we'll get to see others have the “AHA” moment, and we'll get to see them transform. We'll get to see them start experiencing the love and the joy of life. And it thrills our hearts.

Word Definitions: **glory:** honor, glorious, abundance, riches, splendor, dignity, reputation, reverence
risen: to rise, come forth, break out, arise, rise up, shine
see: perceive, have vision, to look at, regard, look after, see after, learn about, observe, watch, look upon, look out, find out, consider, look at, give attention to, discern, distinguish
fear: tremble, revere, dread, be in awe or dread
enlarged: to be or grow wide, be or grow large, to be widened, be enlarged, broad or roomy pasture
wealth: strength, might, substance

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What do these verses say we actually become? What does this mean regarding our assignments and how we give it away? How will we experience this?

Read Isaiah 42:6–7:

⁶“I am the Lord; I have called you^[a] in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,
⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

He says: “I’m going to actually give you to others as the covenant.” We know the covenant is that He is going to bless us to make us a blessing. He says: “You’re going to become the covenant—the walking example of the process of the blessing, it’s a flow-through process. While you’re being blessed, you’ll be blessing others and inviting people to that same place where they, too, will become the covenant. And on and on and on and on and on. You can’t stop it, and you do not have a heart to ever stop it; you’ll never just say, “Give me the blessing and thanks.” Instead, remember that the covenant is both: I’m going to bless you to make you a blessing, and then you are going to share that blessing with others.

When you start sharing it with others, you will do so, not out of duty, but out of the joy of the life that’s happening to you. People will be drawn to it. You become the covenant—leading others to experience the benefits of walking in the light. What a privilege for us.

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Word Definition: **called:** be named, be called out, be chosen

in righteousness: righteousness (as vindicated), justification (in controversy), deliverance, victory, prosperity, of God as covenant-keeping in redemption

give: bestow, grant, permit, ascribe, employ, devote, consecrate, dedicate, pay wages, sell, exchange, lend, commit, entrust, give over, deliver up, yield produce, occasion, produce, requite to, report, mention, utter, stretch out, extend us

as a covenant: alliance, pledge

open blind eyes: the idea of a film over the eyes

bring out prisoners: captive, in bondage

As children of the light, what are we called to be? What does that mean, and how do we live this out?

Read Matthew 5:13–16:

Salt and Light

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that^[a] they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

We represent salt and light. Shine your light—let it become known to others—for the praise of God and never for ourselves. What do you do with the light? Put it out there openly. You'd never be afraid of that because why? Because this will draw other people to God. It will draw those who are observing that we are living this life of light, that we are experiencing clarity. They will see that we are following the light and seeing wonderful things happen, and the light is shining. His light.

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We are not responsible for making it shine, but it shines through us, and others will see it. We just have to let it shine!

Let it shine. Let it shine. Let it shine.

Word Definition: **good:** beautiful, handsome, excellent, eminent, choice, surpassing, precious, useful, suitable, commendable, admirable, beautiful to look at, shapely, magnificent, excellent in its nature and characteristics, and therefore well adapted to its ends, genuine, approved, joined to names of men designated by their office, competent, able, such as one ought to be praiseworthy, noble
works: business, employment, that which any one is occupied, that which one undertakes to do, enterprise, undertaking
glory: to think, suppose, be of opinion, to praise, extol, magnify, celebrate, to honor, do honor, hold in honor, to make glorious, adorn with luster, clothe with splendor, to impart glory to something, render it excellent, to make renowned, render illustrious, to cause the dignity and worth of some person or thing to become manifest and acknowledged

Read Matthew 10:26–33:

Have No Fear

²⁶ “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸ And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.^[a] ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?^[b] And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³² So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

As we walk in the light, we are to speak it out publicly (what we are revealing privately) and do not worry about any opposition. Our assignment is to share what we are speaking. We’ll get opposition, but don’t worry about it—it’s immaterial. Our role isn’t to care about their choices, and it is not our burden or responsibility, but just to let the light shine. It goes to something very profound: the purity of light. Does the light, in a sense, care where it goes? No, it’s pure and just shines.

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If people want to walk away from it, put up a barrier against it, or oppose it, pure light does not care because it is not affected—it just keeps emitting light. It shines because it is light, and light cannot be extinguished.

This goes hand in hand with judgment—judging is not our responsibility on either side of this—we are just to be the light and let it shine. We will have a life of benefit, privilege, and great freedom.

Word Definition: **speak:** say, tell, command

preach: to be a herald, to officiate as a herald, to proclaim after the manner of a herald, always with the suggestion of formality, gravity, and an authority which must be listened to and obeyed, to publish, proclaim openly: something which has been done

confess: to say the same thing as another, to agree with, assent, to concede, not to refuse, to promise, not to deny, declare, to admit or declare one's self guilty of what one is accused of, to profess, to declare openly, speak out freely, to profess one's self the worshipper of one, to praise, celebrate

deny: abnegate, abjure, not to accept, to reject, to refuse something offered

What did Jesus say He must be doing? Why? Since Christ is in us and we are now to be the light of the world as His representatives on this Earth, what must we be doing? What does that practically mean for us?

Read John 9:1–5:

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

9 As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

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Jesus makes a clear statement. We are to do the work of Him who sent us, since He is the light of the world. There it is for us. You will be given the assignments that you must do. Do what? You must do the work of God that He assigns to us because we have the light.

Go to these opportunities to give it away as God so gives us. We don't have to go find it. That's what a lot of people say. "We have to find a ministry; we have to find a program." But this isn't the case. We need to walk in the light as they're lining up around the block to receive it; and He'll show us where and how and when. Just be sensitive to His leading. It will always be in relationship to our own margin, our own time, our own availability, and how that develops over time, because He doesn't want to suck the life out of us to give it away. All we have to do is say that we have a heart that will follow God wherever He tells us to go. Did Jesus ever get worn out? No, because He followed the life of joy and excitement and margin that God laid out for Him.

It's never going to be a burden by definition, because it's not about duty. It will be a joy to give it away as we must complete the assignments given to us by God. Receive and give it away. Walk in the light and live the wonderful life of the light!

Word Definition: **must:** it is necessary, there is need of, it behooves, is right and proper, necessity, lying in the nature of the case, necessity brought on by circumstances or by the conduct of others toward us, necessity in reference to what is required to attain some end, a necessity of law and command, of duty, equity
work: works of Father; business, employment, that which any one is occupied, that which one undertakes to do, enterprise, undertaking