



*Light
Ovs
Darkness*

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Introduction

Light is electromagnetic radiation within a certain portion of the electromagnetic spectrum. The word usually refers to visible light, which is visible to the human eye and is responsible for the sense of sight.

In 1665, Sir Isaac Newton was able to show, by using a double prism experiment, that ordinary, visible light is actually composed of seven colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet). We now know that visible light is actually a continuous color distribution that starts with red light at the long wavelength end of the spectrum (wavelength has to do with the electromagnetic properties of light and refers to the distance from one crest of the electromagnetic wave to the next; if that doesn't make sense, don't worry about it) and ends with violet at the short end. In reality, visible light is only a portion of the light spectrum (light continues with infrared at one end of the spectrum and ultraviolet at the other). (Ron Bigalow, The Nature of Light)

Now that you have had a science lesson of sorts, lets talk about the Biblical concept of light.

The Bible Dictionary Offers This... Light always involves the removal of darkness in the unfolding of biblical history and theology. The contrast of light and darkness is common to all of the words for "light" in both Old and New Testaments (esp. Heb. or [r/a]; Gk. phos [fw"]). The literal contrast between metaphysical good and evil, God and evil forces, believers and unbelievers. The Bible entertains no thought that darkness is equal in power to God's light. God is the absolute Sovereign who rules over the darkness and the powers of evil.

Light Is Good... The importance of light and darkness is dramatically presented in the opening sentences of the biblical record. In response to the darkness that was over the surface of the deep (**Gen 1:2**), God spoke and light came into being. Darkness and light are evocative words in Hebrew. Darkness evokes everything that is anti-God: the wicked (**Prov 2:13**), judgment (**Exod 10:21**), death (**Psalm 88:12**). Light is the first of the Creator's works, manifesting the divine operation in a world that is darkness and chaos without it. While light is not itself divine, it is often used metaphorically for life (**Psalm 56:13**), salvation (**Isa 9:2**), the commandments (**Prov 6:23**), and the divine presence of God (**Exod 10:23**). In the first creative act, "God saw that the light was good" (**Gen 1:3**).

God Is Light... If light represents goodness in antithesis to the evil associated with darkness, it is a natural step for the biblical authors to understand God, the ultimate good, as light. Light symbolizes the holy God. Light signifies God's presence and favor (**Psalm 27:1**; **Isa 9:2**; **2 Cor 4:6** in contrast to God's judgment (**Amos 5:18**)). Throughout the Old Testament, light is regularly associated with God and his word; with salvation, with goodness, with truth, with life. The New Testament resonates with these themes, so that the holiness of God is presented in such a way that it is said that God "lives in unapproachable light" (**1 Tim 6:16**). God is light (**1 John 1:5**) and the Father of lights (**James 1:17**) who dispels darkness.

Light Is The Revelation of God's Love... The Johannine writings gather up the Old Testament understanding of light and show its summation in Jesus Christ (thirty-three of the seventy-two occurrences of *phos* [φως] in the New Testament are found in the Johannine literature). Light is the revelation of God's love in Jesus Christ and the penetration of that love into lives darkened by sin (**1 John 1:5-7**). Jesus declares that he is "the light of the world" (**John 8:12**; **9:5**). Jesus is the incarnate Word of God, who has come as the light that enlightens all people (**John 1:4-14**), so that those believing in him will no longer be in darkness (**12:46**).

Paul concurs as he harks back to the creation account: "For God, who said, Let light shine out of darkness, ' make his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ" (**2 Cor 4:6**). Through the Word of God light came into existence (**Gen 1:1-3**), and through the revelation of God in Jesus Christ the Word brought light to humanity.

The Light of Salvation And Life For Believers ... Those responding to the light are ushered into the sphere of life in which darkness is dispelled. Salvation brings light to those in darkness (**Job 22:28 ; Psalm 27:1 ; Isa 9:2 ; Matt 4:15-16**). Jesus Christ is life-giving light, in whom is life (**John 1:4**), and those who follow him "will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (**John 8:12**). Believers are "sons of light" (**John 12:36 ; Eph 5:8 ; 1 Thess 5:5**).

Light Possesses Powers Essential To True Life.... Hence "to be in the light" means simply "to live "both life eternal and life temporal. The one who has come into the light of Jesus Christ is brought into the ethical life characterized by light (cf. **Luke 16:8 ; John 3:19-21 ; 12:36 ; 2 Cor 6:14 ; Col 1:12-14 ; 1 Thess 5:5 ; 1 Peter 2:9**). The godly person enjoys the light of life in the present age (**1 John 2:10**). Paul intentionally contrasts the old life in darkness with new life in the light in Christ Jesus (**Eph 4:17-24**).

Although Satan can disguise himself as "an angel of light, " Christians live in the true light of salvation, laying aside the deeds of darkness and putting on the protective "armor of light" (**Rom 13:12**).

The revealed will of God provides light to the heart, soul, and mind of humanity, providing guidance in a dark world (**Psalm 19:7-10 ; Psalms 119:105 Psalms 119:130**). A stark contrast will characterize the old life and the new: "For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true" (**Eph 5:8-9**). *The truly Christian life is a life of light.*

A Light To The World... God is light, who dispels the darkness of this world. Jesus came as the light of the world, breaking through the darkness of sin by his work on the cross. It follows that believers are a light to the world as well. Jesus describes his disciples as light and light-bearers (**Matt 5:14-16**). Paul indicates to believers in Asia Minor and Macedonia that their lives are a shining light of witness to the world around them (**Eph 5:8 ; Php 2:15**). It is the task of all believers to pass on the divine light they have received. What they have received in the secret intimacy of the community of believers they are to proclaim fearlessly "in the light" of public (**Matt 10:27; Luke 12:3**). All those who have entered into the light now bear responsibility as missionaries of Christ, shining out as "lights in a dark world" with the light of God himself (**Php 2:15**).

The Light Yet To Come.... While both the Old Testament and New Testament describe the future of the ungodly in terms of eschatological darkness, symbolizing perdition, they equally describe the future glory for believers in terms of light. In the New Jerusalem there will be no more night (**Rev 22:5**), and the city will not need the sun, moon, or created light to shine on it, "for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

The Nations Will Walk By Its Light... (Rev 21:23-24). The prophetic word of God is what brings hope of the light yet to come, and Peter provides an appropriate admonition: "You will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in you hearts" (**2 Peter 1:19**). At the future appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ all darkness will be dispelled, and believers will walk in purity, peace, and joy in the light of the living God.

The Origin of Light... Scientists says it's a mystery. However, we can see from Genesis that light comes from God. He created it. "And God said, Let there be light: and there was light." **Genesis 1:3** God actually spoke it into existence before He created the sun.

The writers of the Bible used light as a metaphor to indicate Knowledge i.e. to be enlightened. It also can refer to the Glory of God as in **John 8:12** where Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Then there is the picture of light being us, the followeres of Christ, "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. This is a feference to Righteousness that we are to display in our lives so others will see it, as though it were a lighthouse, and glorify God.

Light is also used to charactorize God. "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all". **I John 1:5** This verse tells us that God is pure in every way. When it says He has no darkness, it means there is no sin in Him at all. No evil thoughts or depravity like what is in man.

Light & Darkness

Light and darkness in John's gospel is a symbolic meaning using Light as a symbol of Truth and Righteousness and Darkness as that of Falsehood and Evil. It shows the age old conflict of good and evil. This usage is seen many times in the Bible and often refers to those who possess the truth of God and His righteousness.

Luke Tells Us To Take Heed... "Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness." **Luke 11:35** We are to examine what we believe to be sure it is really the truth and not a lie. Are you a "Truth Seeker?" Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." **John 8:32**

These days everybody has his or her own truth. The favorite saying is, "I Believe this or that" I hear it all the time and the sad part is, they don't know the Lord or His gospel of salvation. They go with what feels right or what seems logical to them. Here are a few beliefs others have dropped on me over the years:

1. We just die and that's the end of it.
2. I'll probably end up in Hell but all my friends will be there too and we'll have a party.
3. Existence is an illusion. We are really just part of a bad dream that some super being is experiencing, a nightmare.
4. We are the product of evolution. There is no God or afterlife.
5. I believe in myself. I am my own god.
6. Our church is the true church. You have to join us to be saved.
7. There are many ways to God. As long as we are good, we'll be ok.

I am sure you can add to this list. They are all erroneous conclusions that will keep many folks out of heaven. The light in you must be the Word of God for it is the only thing that can make you free and lead you to eternal life.

The Children of Light

John 12:35...tells us that Jesus is the Light. "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness over takes you. Whoever walks in the dark ::does not know where they are going.

Jesus also said, **John 3:19**...Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. **John 9:5**...While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

The apostle Paul said, "Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." **I Thessalonians. 5:5** He tells us that we now carry the light that was the embodiment of Jesus, all the truth and righteousness of God.

If you are at a loss concerning who you are, this scripture should clear it up. We have already seen that God is Light and you are now His child, bearing His name and image. Therefore, we imitate light as we walk in His Light resulting in others seeing Jesus.

The Children of Darkness

Children of Darkness are those that dwell in darkness and would rather not walk in the light. They have evil hearts and run from the light. They do not comprehend the light. They are the children of the devil, following their own will and doing their own thing with no regard for God or their fellow man.

Bible Verses That Contrast Light With Darkness

There are 177 occurrences of the word, "Darkness". Here are a few verses that contrast light with darkness for your consideration. They are in the NIV translation. Take note that darkness is used as a place that has no light.

[Matthew 4:16](#) the people who sat in darkness saw a great light, to those who sat in the region and shadow of death, to them light has dawned."

[Matthew 6:23](#) But if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

[Matthew 22:13](#) Then the king said to the servants, "Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and throw him into the outer darkness; there is where the weeping and grinding of teeth will be."

[Luke 1:79](#) to shine on those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death; to guide our feet into the way of peace."

[Luke 11:34](#) The lamp of the body is the eye. Therefore when your eye is good, your whole body is also full of light; but when it is evil, your body also is full of darkness.

[John 3:19](#) This is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their works were evil.

[John 12:46](#) I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in the darkness.

[Romans 13:12](#) The night is far gone, and the day is near. Let's therefore throw off the works of darkness, and let's put on the armor of light.

[1 Corinthians 4:5](#) Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each man will get his praise from God.

[2 Corinthians 4:6](#) seeing it is God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

[1 Thessalonians 5:5](#) You are all children of light, and children of the day. We don't belong to the night, nor to darkness,

[1 John 1:6](#) If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in the darkness, we lie, and don't tell the truth.

[1 John 2:9](#) He who says he is in the light and hates his brother, is in the darkness even until now.

Shinning Lights

Excerpts From John McArthur's Web Article

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify yur Father in heaven (**Matthew 5:16**).

This may be one of the first verses you learned in Sunday school. No doubt you sang the song: This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. Jesus said that we (His disciples) are the light of the world. We must not hide that light under a bushel or in a church building. We must let it shine. How will people see that light? Through our good works.

The German atheist philosopher Nietzsche once said that if he saw more redeemed people he might be more inclined to believe in their Redeemer. Christians who do not have changed lives have a credibility gap. If I am trying to tell you how great my doctor is, but I am dying under his care, you might question his skill. If I try to tell you how great my auto mechanic is, but my car is belching black smoke out the exhaust, you will probably be reluctant to entrust your own vehicle to him. What good does it do to tell people how great our Savior is if they cannot see that we ourselves have been saved from sin? *Let your light shine.*

What does Jesus mean by light? Jesus also calls Himself "the light of the world." John calls Him "the life that is the light of men," "the light that shines in the darkness" (**John 1:4-5**). The light in us is His light, the indwelling Christ, the Holy Spirit within us. The apostle Paul speaks of "the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ" (**2 Corinthians 4:4**). We have that light shining through our lives if our actions reflect the nature of Christ—His love, compassion, and forgiveness.

His light shines through our attitudes, words, and deeds. When people see that our lives have been changed so that we have Jesus' values and see the power of God at work in us, they will agree that we do have a great Savior.

When they see redeemed people, they are more inclined to believe that we have a Redeemer. The Christlike life is the platform on which individual testimony becomes convincing.

The alternative is for the Christian to live in the dark. Scripture teaches that "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth" (**1 John 1:5-6**). If no light shines from your life, either you have no relationship with Christ or you are bringing dishonor to Him.

It is a sad thing for someone to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and continue to live an openly sinful life. It brings disrepute to Christ and the gospel. It is a stumbling block for unbelievers. It is certainly not effective in convincing anyone that Christ has the power to transform lives.

Our responsibility as disciples and evangelists is to have lives so transformed by the Word and the inward presence of Christ that everyone can see His light reflected in our acts of kindness.

Don't Be Afraid To Shine

We live in a sin-darkened world, and all of us are in dire need of the light of our Savior. Let's open our eyes, taking in the Light through reading God's word, and shining out the light we take in by loving others, sharing the Gospel, and using the amazing gifts and opportunities God has gifted us with. When we come together we can be a city on a hill that cannot be hidden. You are the light of the world; so go ahead, don't be afraid to Shine!

Darkness Cannot Overcome The Light!

Excerpts from Rick Renner's Web Article on www.lightsource.com

"And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not."

John 1:5

I know of no great Christian leader who hasn't faced some kind of opposition as he or she sought to do God's will. But the truth is that darkness does not have the power to overcome light! Every believer can overcome any attack if he or she won't quit first!

John 1:5 says, "And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." The word "comprehended" is the Greek word *katalambano*. It is a compound of the words *kata* and *lambano*. The word *kata* carries the force of something that is *dominating* or *subjugating*. The word *lambano* means *to seize or grab hold of*.

When the two words are compounded, they mean *to seize, to pull down, to tackle, to conquer, or to hold under one's power*. Therefore, this verse could be translated, "*Darkness does not have the ability to suppress or to hold the light under its domain.*"

This doesn't mean that darkness won't *attempt* to overcome the light. However, its efforts will be frustrated and unsuccessful because the light of God always prevails, even in what seems to be the darkest hour or the bleakest situation. Darkness simply doesn't have the power or ability to put out God's light. Since you are a child of the light (**Ephesians 5:8**), this means darkness doesn't have the ability to put out *your* light either!

First **John 5:4** says, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." The word "overcometh" is the Greek word *nikos*. It means *to conquer*. It was used to portray athletes who had gained the mastery of the competition and ultimately reigned supreme as champions over the games.

The Holy Spirit was careful in His selection of this word *nikos*. This word communicates vivid images that pertain to our walk of faith and victory. It tells us that when we begin the walk of faith, we enter into a real-life competition. The decision to walk by faith puts us right smack dab in the center of the ring where the contest immediately begins.

This is so important to understand, because too often we wrongly presume that if we walk by faith, we will be removed from all problems. But our faith pits us directly opposite the devil's powers. He hates our faith because he knows what it can do! For this reason, Satan may try to go for a knockout punch. But even if he knocks us flat, he can't keep us down on the ground!

The apostle Paul testified to this when he said that he was "...cast down, but not destroyed" (**2 Corinthians 4:9**). One translation says, "*We occasionally get knocked down, but never get knocked out!*" Those who are born of God have the supernatural ability to keep getting up again, no matter how many times they fall! Remember, John wrote, "For whatsoever is born of God *overcometh* the world."

Because the word "overcometh" is the Greek word *nikos*, it tells us that we are the ultimate champions and describes our superior position as children of God over the world. We are fully armed with everything we need to be super-conquerors in this life!

As the "god of this world" (**2 Corinthians 4:4**), the devil may try to use the world around us to do battle with us. But regardless of what weapon Satan uses or how he attempts to combat you and me, **I John 5:4** declares that we have a faith that *overcomes* the world! This means we have a faith that *overrides* and *supersedes* any organization, any event, any circumstance, or any difficult dilemma Satan would try to employ against us. He may be the "god of this world," but we have a weapon so powerful that we can shoot him down every time he shows up uninvited.

John 1:5 makes it absolutely clear that *darkness does not have the ability to suppress or to hold the light under its domain*. Darkness may try to prevent the light from shining, but it never holds back the light permanently. Eventually it always comes shining through.

This is true of you and your dream, vision, or calling as well. You may feel hindered from time to time in your attempts to fulfill the call God has given you, but don't despair. Those hindrances won't last long. The only way the devil can steal your dream, vision, or calling is if you surrender to him first!

If you hold on and refuse to give up, your faith will overcome every encumbrance the devil tries to set in your path!

Conclusion

So what have we learned? I guess the key points to take away from this brief study are:

1. "Born Again" children of God are filled with the Light of God.
2. The children of darkness do not comprehend this indwelling light.
3. Darkness, in any form, cannot overcome the light in us.
4. God is Light and there is no darkness in Him at all.
5. We are to allow this indwelling light to shine through our attitudes and personality.
6. We are to use this light to light our way in this world.
Psalm 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."
7. God is the source of all light.

We are blessed to have the light of God dwelling in us. With its presence comes an enormous sense of truth, perspective, clarity of mind, and victory over evil forces.

The very fact that we possess this incredible light confirms that we are the children of Light and destined for the throne of God to reign with Jesus for all of eternity. How great is that?

A darkened world, full of sin, hate, sickness and all the rest of Satan's onslaught cannot defeat us. I will leave you with this final thought,

*“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them:
because greater is he that is in you,
than he that is in the world.”* **I John 4:4**