



~ Light in the Darkness ~

“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. That was the true Light which, coming into the world, gives light to every man.” – John 1:4-5, 9

It was the Feast of Tabernacles and Jesus walked among the temple courts. Light was everywhere. It shone in the booths where people stayed, it shone in the temple court illuminating everything. This was an important aspect to this feast for Israel. It reminded them of the Pillar of Light that led them in the desert those many years and it also was a celebration pointing to the coming of Messiah who would shed His light upon Israel.

Thru the ages, God has always revealed Himself thru the symbol of light. At creation, He spoke a word and light shone out of darkness. Light was within the Pillar of cloud by day or fire by night as He guided His people thru the desert. When the Lord appeared on Mount Sinai, light and fire covered the entire top of the mountain. It put holy fear into every heart. When the tabernacle (and later the temple in Solomon’s day) was built, Light rested over the Ark of the Covenant. When the birth of Jesus was announced, light shone upon the hills of Bethlehem as angels made it known to the shepherds there.

In short, God is light. Jesus wanted to illustrate once again His relation with God and turn the minds and hearts of Israel to Him as Messiah. Turning to the people in the temple courts, He said, “I am the Light of the World. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” – John 8:12 It was regularly understood by Israel that Messiah would be a light to the world. Isaiah spoke of it in Isaiah 49:6, “I will give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.” When Jesus spoke these words, there was no mistake by the people that He claimed to be the promised Messiah.

Unfortunately, He did not come in a way popularly expected by Israel. They had laid out an expectation of Messiah that matched their own desires instead of what scripture clearly revealed. Despite all that Jesus did and the character He clearly revealed thru His works, many would not accept Him as the promised One of God. Their pride and ambition kept them from the truth. In order for the Light to remove the darkness, one must choose to accept this Light. The leaders refused to accept Jesus as the Light of God.

In answer to this attitude, Jesus followed His announcement with healing a man born blind from birth (*John 9*). This miracle could not be refuted and many people saw the meaning in this mighty miracle and believed on Jesus. But Jesus had a double meaning in the miracle. Disease and ailments in general were believed to be a curse from God for sin. By healing a man born

blind from birth, Jesus illustrated the power and true meaning of the *“Light that gives light to every man”*. The removal of the darkness of sin in the life is the work that Jesus came to this earth to do. This is a promise for you and me.

The work of Jesus upon the heart is one that is not forced or manipulated upon a person. It is thru the influence of the Holy Spirit that we must choose the Light of Christ. When we surrender ourselves to Christ, change begins in our hearts that frees us from the bondage of sin. In this process, we experience true victory and joy as we see the power of God work.

We have no power to free ourselves from the slavery and darkness of sin. But when we desire to be set free from sin and seeing our great need cry out to God for help, the Holy Spirit fills us and gives us strength to overcome that we ourselves cannot do on our own. He moves us to obey the will of God for our lives. The only way to be truly free is to become one with Christ – meaning an intimate relationship that allows Christ to be center of our lives. When we submit ourselves fully to Jesus, we begin the process of restoration in our lives that reflect the Light of God.

To all who come to Jesus realizing their need, help is received and darkness is turned into light. Sight is restored in our blindness and our lives begin to reflect the joy and beauty that we were created to reveal. This truth is for every man, woman, and child who will put their faith in Jesus as the Light who dispels the darkness of our lives.

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