



# God is Light

A SUMMER SERIES ON THE EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN

Psalm 27 1 John 1:5-7 Eph 5:8-17 John 3:16-21

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The Apostle John teaches us that there are extremely clear and sharp boundaries between being a Christian and being an unbeliever; between life in Christ and life in the world. There is no middle ground; nor is there any gray area<sup>1</sup>. You either know God or you don't; you either live a holy life or you live in ungodliness. Here is an example:

This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: **God is Light**; in Him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 1 John 1:5-6

**Light** is a metaphor to describe God, His Nature, and His Holiness. It teaches us that God is pure and perfect, He is righteous and good. Your God is loving and kind and full of grace and mercy. There is no darkness nor evil in Him; He will never treat you in a wicked or malicious way. *God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.*

The clearest place to see that **God is Light** is in His Son Jesus Christ. *Jesus is the Light of the World*; the **Light of God** is reflected in the teachings of Jesus; it is seen in His compassionate miracles for people; and it is seen most brightly on the cross of Calvary. *Jesus, the Light of the World*, rescues you from the darkness of sin and guilt and death.

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<sup>1</sup> In the [Apostle John's] antithetical framework there are only two possible alternatives: either a person is motivated by the Spirit of God, in which case he is a genuine believer and belongs to the faithful Christian community to which the author is writing; or one is motivated by the spirit of deceit, in which case he belongs to the opponents who are 'false prophets' . . . [1, 2, 3 John Comfort And Counsel For A Church In Crisis](#), Dr. W. Hall Harris III, Bible.org

The darkness of sin is thick; and it is evil. In the darkness your *sinful nature* thrives. In the darkness you find *rebellion* of all kinds; in the darkness *immorality* lurks: lust, greed, envy, and malice. Nothing good roams in the darkness of sin. The darkness blinds you so you cannot see the Love of God, nor the Light of Christ. The darkness of sin is thick; and it is evil. The darkness of sin destroys and it brings certain death.

By God's grace alone, through faith alone, God has *intervened* in your sin-darkened life with *the Light of His Son Jesus*. By the power of the Holy Spirit at work through the Word of God and the Water of Holy Baptism, you have been rescued from the darkness of sin and its destruction and death. By faith, you know that *God is Light* and that *Jesus is the Light to the World!*

In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. John 1:4
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." John 8:12
As long as I am in the world, I AM the Light of the world." John 9:5
I have come into the world as Light, so that whoever believes in Me may not remain in darkness John 12:46

Jesus has come into the world to give you life, eternal life. His death on the cross, and His resurrection from the dead, overcomes all darkness, the power the devil, and the sting of death. Salvation is pictured as “*Light*.” In Christ is life, and His life is the *Light of the world!*

Today, if you're caught up in sin somehow; if rebellion or immorality is becoming a habit for you; if you're walking in darkness rather than the light, **THEN REPENT! STOP SINNING!** Confess it to God, and trust that He forgives you and that you belong to Christ. You know *the light of Christ and His salvation!* Whoever follows Christ will not walk in darkness, but will have *the Light of Life.*<sup>2</sup>

In your Baptism,  
God rescued you from the darkness; you belong to Him!  
*God is Light; in Him there is no darkness at all.*

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<sup>2</sup> The idea is that God's People live transparent, open, honest lives of faith in Christ; those in darkness live secret, deceitful, and shameful lives driven by their sinful nature.

The Bible uses the metaphor of light to describe God in many and various ways<sup>3</sup>! you are probably familiar with most of them. here is a sampling of these metaphors.

Salvation is pictured as Light as opposed to the darkness of sin, the depravity of evil, and the certainty of death.

- ⇒ **Light** is used to describe *God's Presence* in your life. The Lord is at work your life with His goodness, kindness, grace and mercy. God's presence means His strength is at work in your weakness. God is present in your life as you struggle with the sinful nature, you guard against worldly temptations, and you resist Satan and his depraved demons. The **Light of Christ** means that *He is present* in your life to strengthen you each day! Remember Psalm 27? *The Lord is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?* The Lord is present in your life, and you will **never** be alone nor abandoned.
- ⇒ The **Light of Christ** in your life means that you *walk in the truth* of God's Holy Word. *Holy Scripture is a lamp to your feet and light unto your path.* The Light separates the darkness for you: you can discern truth from error, right from wrong, and good from evil. The **Light of Christ** means that the **Word of God** is at work in your life *revealing the truth* to you.
- ⇒ The **Light of Christ** in your life means that you are busy *doing good works and practicing righteousness.* *You let your light shine before men so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.* You are concerned about obeying God's Holy Word and His Commandments. You glorify God as you love your neighbor. You hear the words of light and you do the works of light. *The fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth.* The **Light of Christ** guides you each day; and you are busy *doing good works and practicing righteousness.*

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<sup>3</sup> ALL the Light metaphors of Scripture are fulfilled in Christ, the Son of God. The “Light” metaphors are powerful Gospel images.

⇒ The *Light of Christ* in your life means that you *Live each day in Grace & Peace*. You do not live in guilt; nor are not burdened with shame. You have confessed your sins and trust in your Savior's forgiveness. You have a good, clean, and clear conscience; you have been rescued from a dark, guilty conscience. Every day is a day of *grace* knowing that you have *peace* with God; and that brings great *joy* into your life.

⇒ The *Light of Christ* also means that you have enemies. Jesus said that *the Light has come into the world, but people love the darkness rather than the light because their deeds are evil*<sup>4</sup>. The *Light of Christ* separates you from the ways of the world. The world not only will reject you; but the darkness of their sins makes them hostile towards you. You can expect to face various forms of persecution when the Light of Christ shines from you. You can expect to be insulted, ridiculed and excluded. *“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because ... of the Light of Christ.*

The Bible uses the metaphor of **Light** to describe God in many and various ways!

**God is Light; in Him there is no darkness at all.**

By God's grace, you have been rescued from the darkness;  
you know, believe, and confess  
Jesus as the Light of the world;  
Now live your life in the Light of Christ!

Amen!

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<sup>4</sup> Jesus explains this using the Greek word for “judgment” in John 3:19; it is the word “κρίσις” which in English is “*crisis*”. It is the idea of separation and division. Jesus divides people. Those who reject Him love their darkness, rebellion and immorality; and with their rebellion, comes a hostility to Christ, His Word, and His People.

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**Lord Jesus, Light of the World,  
we thank you for rescuing us  
from the darkness of sin.**

**We need your help  
so that we can walk in your ways,  
shaping our lives around You and Your Word.**

**Send your Holy Spirit,  
so that we may bear the fruit of  
goodness, righteousness and truth;**

**and in so doing,  
may shine your Light to others  
so that they too may be rescued  
from their darkness in sin.**

**We pray this in the power of the Holy Spirit  
and for the glory of the Father,  
Amen!**

## Psalm 27

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold 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 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 in his temple. 5 For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock. 6 And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD. 7 Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! 8 You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek." 9 Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation! 10 For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the LORD will take me in. 11 Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. 12 Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence. 13 I believe that I shall look 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!

## 1 John 1:5-7

<sup>5</sup> This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

## Ephesians 5:8-17

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup> and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." <sup>15</sup> Therefore, be very careful how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

## John 3:16-21

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> 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."