

HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT

“THE PEOPLE WHO WERE SITTING IN DARKNESS SAW A GREAT LIGHT, AND THOSE WHO WERE SITTING IN THE LAND AND SHADOW OF DEATH, UPON THEM A LIGHT DAWNED.”

--MATTHEW 4:16

There is always a contrast of light to darkness. Without the darkness, we would not recognize or see the light. The brilliance of a sunrise would never be noticed without dawn breaking forth from the black sky of night.

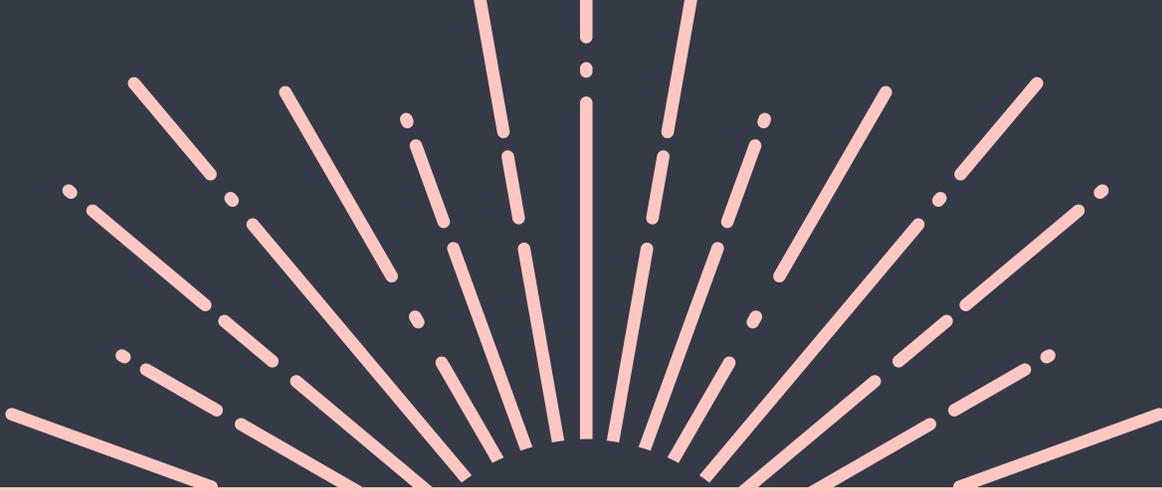
God created the light, rules over it by day and by night, and uses it for His own purposes.

“The One forming light and creating darkness, causing well-being and creating calamity, I am the Lord who does all these.” –Isaiah 45:7

And then the Lord God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into this spiritually dark and dreary world to save us from our sins. In the Gospels, Matthew states that He is the “*great Light*” (Matthew 4:16), Luke says He is “*a light of revelation*” (Luke 2:32), and John quotes Jesus as saying, “*I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.*” (John 8:12).

This same apostle develops this theme further in I John 1:6, when he states, “*If we say we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth, but if we walk in the Light as He Himself in the Light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.*”

Living in the light and the goodness of Christ’s love, we experience fellowship, spiritual growth, godly wisdom, and a capability to shine His light into the cracks and crevices of this darkened world. When we stumble and fall in the darkness, however, we can lose our way, be led astray, hide in the shadows, and wound both ourselves and those around us. Even then the Lord is gracious and forgives and gives us a way back to Him if we will admit and confess our shortcomings to Him. Don’t hide from Him or cover it over—open your heart up to Him and bring it all into His marvelous light for healing and restoration.



But we live in a fallen world. What happens when it appears that the blackness has swallowed us up through death of loved ones, illness, loss of work, broken relationships, injustice, abuse, financial ruin? What happens when the soul does not seem to be able to recover from these gloomy events of life? What do we do when darkness appears to be the victor, such as when David was on the run living in caves, Joseph was thrown into a pit by his very own brothers, Or Jesus's body lay lifeless in the cold, dark tomb?

God is still there. It says in Isaiah 45:3:

"I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name."

Out of the pain and the suffering, David became king of Israel, Joseph declared to his brothers that God meant it for good instead of evil, and Jesus conquered the grave by rising again.

Science tells us that the light we see with our eyes only occupies one thousandth of a percent of the light spectrum. Sometimes we cannot taste, touch, or feel the vast and immense love of God pouring into our hearts, but He is always there in the midst. Jesus is *"calling us out of the darkness into His marvelous light."* (1 Peter 2:9). This is where we serve such a great God, that He allows us to bring our laments to Him and cry out in our distress. He speaks softly into our hearts through His word, He prays for us through His Son, and He gives us His Comforter, the Holy Spirit, who never leaves us or forsakes us.

We are living in a dark time right now as we experience the aftermath of this pandemic caused by the coronavirus. Are you struggling with isolation, depression, anger, frustration, unbelief? Know that you can take it all to Him and allow His brilliant light to wash over you and heal your soul.

Also know that you can take it to other brothers or sisters in Christ whom you may be physically distanced from but who are always spiritually near. Science also tells us that light waves come in a continuous variety of sizes, frequencies, and energies. A trusted friend, a spiritual counselor, one of our pastors, a medical doctor are all a part of His spectacular colors that radiates His light into a broken world.

Flee from the darkness. Take a small step of faith today and harness the energy or the light from both Christ and others around us.

*“Light arises in the darkness for the upright, He is gracious and compassionate and righteous.”
(Psalm 112:4)*



WRITTEN BY SHARON B. WOOLMINGTON

SMALL GROUP COORDINATOR OF CLEARVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

