

**You Once Were Darkness,
but now You are Light in
the Lord (continued)**

Ephesians 5:1-14

April 27, 2008

Ephesians 2:4-7

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

Ephesians 5:8a

“For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.”

- (1) Is the language of darkness and light unique to this verse, or does the NT often speak in these terms?
- (2) What exactly is this “light” that we are in the Lord?
- (3) How is a person transformed from darkness into light?
- (4) What does it mean to say that we *are* light in the Lord?
- (5) What are some practical evidences that we are in fact light in the Lord?

Is the language of darkness and light unique to this verse?

Answer: the NT uses the language of darkness and light over 100 times to describe God the Father, Jesus, the devil, unbelievers, believers, the process of salvation, the proclamation of the Gospel, and the fate of both believers and unbelievers.

Six Categories of Usage:

- The NT describes both God the Father and Jesus Christ as light (Math. 4:16, 17:1-13; Luke 2:32; John 1:1-13, 8:12, 9:5; 1 Tim. 6:16; Heb. 1:3; James 1:17; 1 John 1:5).
- The NT describes the dominion of Satan as a dominion of darkness (Acts 26:18; Luke 22:53; Eph. 6:12; 2 Cor. 11:12-15).
- The NT depicts unbelievers as living in darkness and gives their deeds as evidence of the fact (John 3:19-21, 11:9-10, 12:35-43; Romans 13:12-13; 1 John 1:5-7, 2:8-10).
- The NT equates the spread of the gospel to the proclamation of the light of Christ (Acts 13:47, 26:18, 23).

Six Categories of Usage:

- The NT describes salvation as a transformation from darkness to light, a transformation that is also displayed by our deeds (Math. 5:14-16; Luke 1:79, 6:18; John 8:12, 12:35-43; Acts 26:12-23; 2 Cor. 4:6; Eph. 1:18; Col. 1:12-13; 1 Thes. 5:4-5; Heb. 6:4, 10:32; 1 Peter 2:9; 1 John 1:5-7, 2:8-10).
- The NT describes the ultimate fate of unbelievers as living in “utter darkness,” and the ultimate fate of believers as living in the light of the glory of God (Math. 8:12, 22:13, 25:30; 2 Pet. 2:17; Jude 1:13; Rev. 21:23-25, 22:5).

What Exactly is this “Light”?

Answer: the light which we are in Christ is the glory of God mediated to us through Christ.

- 1 Timothy 6:16—God the Father dwells in unapproachable light.
- Hebrews 1:3—Jesus is the radiance of the glory of God.
- Luke 10:22—Jesus reveals the glory of God to whomever he will.

How is a Person Transformed?

Answer: by being exposed to the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, and this by the will of the Father (John 12:35-43; 2 Cor. 3:18, 4:6; Col. 1:12-13; 1 John 3:1-3).

2 Corinthians 4:6

“For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

2 Corinthians 3:18

“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

1 John 3:1-3

“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.”

What does it Mean to Say we Are Light in the Lord?

Answer: it means that we are a people who glow with the glory of God because we have been exposed to the glory of God in the face of Christ.

What are Some Evidences?

1. You know that you are light in the Lord when you find yourself being drawn to the light and the things associated with the light.
2. You know that you are light in the Lord when you see the fruit of the Spirit being borne in and through you.
3. You can know that you are light in the Lord when you find the hatred of sin growing in your heart.
4. You know that you are light in the Lord when the non-believers in your life get uncomfortable around you or shy away from you or right out reject you.