

Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Light Penetrates Darkness!

Scripture: John 8:12 - Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Even in the beginning of creation, <u>Genesis 1:3-4 tells us</u>, "And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness." Light penetrates darkness. When one walks into a dark room at night and turns on the light switch, darkness flees. When we allow Jesus Christ—who is light—to enter our lives, darkness must flee. <u>Paul declared to the church at Ephesus</u>, "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8).

<u>Darkness covers and hides, whereas light reveals</u>! Therefore, the world should witness the revealed Light of the World in our lives. <u>Jesus Himself proclaimed</u>, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). Jesus is the source of all life and light—<u>both physical</u> and <u>spiritual</u>. Light is incompatible with darkness. Light and darkness can never live together. While in darkness our lives without God were without form and void. Light has a battle to fight—but darkness can never overpower it. A person could never turn darkness off, for darkness is the absence of energy; but light has energy and dispels the darkness. When light comes, darkness has no choice but to leave.

Like a light in a dark place, Jesus would show us where to go. If we walk in His light, we would become "**children of light**," revealing the truth and pointing mankind to God. As Christians, we are to be Christ's light bearers, letting his light shine through us. Jesus said, "*I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness*" (John 12:46).

Death brings eternal darkness, and only Christ's eternal life planted in us will keep us alive in His new Kingdom for eternity. Christ is eternally alive because he is God. He came to earth to offer mankind the hope and light of his eternal life. It cannot be bought, only received as a gift. But Jesus gives it only to those who want it—those who want to live the way God's citizens will live in His future eternal Kingdom.

The darkness of evil never has and never will overcome or extinguish God's light. Jesus Christ was the Creator of life, and His life brings light to mankind. In His light, we see ourselves as we really are (**sinners in need of a Savior**). When we follow Jesus, the Light, we can avoid walking blindly and falling into sin. He lights the path ahead of us so we can see how to live. He removes the darkness of sin from our lives. Let Christ guide your life, and you will never need to stumble in darkness.

Many people do not want their lives exposed to God's light because they are afraid of what it will reveal. <u>They do not want to be changed</u>. Do not be surprised when these same people are threatened by your desire to obey God and do what is right, because they are afraid that the light in you may expose some of the darkness in their lives. Rather than giving in to discouragement, keep praying that they will come to see how much better it is to live in light than in darkness.

Our actions should reflect our faith. We should live above reproach morally so that we can reflect God's goodness to others. Jesus stressed this in the <u>Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:15-16</u>, "Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Can you hide a city that is sitting on top of a hill? Its light at night can be seen for miles. If we live for Christ, we will glow like lights, showing others what Christ is like. We hide our light by (1) being quiet when we should speak, (2) going along with the crowd, (3) denying the light, (4) letting sin dim our light, (5) not explaining our light to others, or (6) ignoring the needs of others. Be a beacon of truth—do not shut your light off from the rest of the world.

Remember <u>Light</u> penetrates <u>Darkness</u> so, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).