



Let The Light Shine

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“Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee; 13 And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim: 14 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, 15 The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; 16 The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up” (Matthew 4:12-16).

The life of Jesus was a constant fulfilment of prophecies. On the surface, His action here appears to be a natural response that anyone could have taken in response to the news of the death of His cousin and forerunner, John The Baptist, but by going to reside in the region of Zabulon, He was actually fulfilling the prophecy in Isaiah 9:1-2 “... the land of Zabulon... the people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined”. When we live in obedience to God’s word, our life also can become a fulfilment of divine prophecies / promises in God’s Word. Some salient truths can be gleaned from this message.

1) The mere presence of Jesus in this locality caused the light of God to shine, dispelling all darkness. This is all in line with Jesus’s teachings as evidenced in these scriptures:

- ♦ 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”;
- ♦ John 9:5 “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world”;
- ♦ John 12:46 “I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness”.

- 2) The preceding illustrates that darkness cannot dwell wherever Jesus is permitted in. Therefore, if Jesus is in your life, He will dispel all darkness away.
- 3) In His teachings, Jesus described every Christian as a light of the world, and demand them to let their light shine “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 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. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:14-16).
- 4) To fully understand and apply this, we need to consider some key properties of light and the associated principles that place demand on our lives.

PROPERTIES OF LIGHT

- 1) Light dispels darkness. All that is required to eradicate darkness is simply turn on the light. If you are the light of the world, then your presence in any environment will dispel all darkness present.
- 2) Light illuminates and improves visibility, making it possible for people to see. “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psalms 119:105). Your presence should enlighten others in that environment.
- 3) Light exposes and uncovers things that were hidden by darkness. “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Ephesians 5:11). Your presence should expose evil

practices and eradicate powers of darkness.

- 4) Light travels in a straight line. This speak of integrity, honesty and transparency that should characterize the Christian life.
- 5) The radiation from light generates heat, which in turn eradicates cold, sustain life and provide means for cooking. It also speaks of warmth in relationships. Your presence should transform frozen relationships to warm ones and provide the nourishment to develop further.
- 6) Light generates energy and power for burning and cutting (used in surgical operations and military warfare). The power of God in you is both for solving problems including health issues and victoriously waging spiritual warfare.
- 7) Light travels faster than sound (speed of sound is 343 m/s whereas that of light is 186,000 miles/s equivalent to 299,792.458 Km/s or 1,079,252,848.8 km/hour). Action speaks louder than words. Your actions and lifestyle has far greater reach and impact than your words. Ever heard the adage: "Your actions speak so loud that I cannot hear what you are saying". Children emulate the examples of their parents more than how they respond to their words.
- 8) Light diffracts as it travels through medium like liquids and solids. This property has industrial application in the manufacturing of lenses, magnifying glasses and microscopes, etc. The light of God in your life has the potential to penetrate barriers and difficult situations, producing transformations and breakthroughs.
- 9) Light protects "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light" (Romans 13:12). Your association with others should bring protection, progression and possessions.

Next, let us consider how these properties translate into the principles for effective Christian living.

PRINCIPLES FOR LIVING

- 1) Ye are the light of the world. How you see yourself matters and affect how you behave and live. God sets you as light of the world. Live up to God's expectations by lighting the world and setting for the world godly standards for them to follow. God sets Christians to lead the world, and not vice versa. Be a leader, not a follower of the world.
- 2) A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. A city on an hill serve useful purposes, similar to that of prominent landmarks that guide travellers safely to their destinations. Before the invention of modern navigational tools, lighthouses served as invaluable beacons for guiding seamen in their voyages. In this dark world of sin, the Christian is that beacon of hope/light to guide others aright. Remember that you may be the only Bible that your neighbour is reading!
- 3) 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. Low profile and shying away from limelight are not appropriate Christian virtues. Don't play the Ostrich game. Trying to hide is similar to the action of the servant who wrapped his talent in a napkin and buried it in the soil (Matthew 25:14-30). Your light is to be invested profitably and not buried. Only the dead gets buried. Do not be buried alive!
- 4) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven is a divine command to be obeyed. Fulfil your divine purpose by making your light so shine before others in such a way that your good works not only becomes visibly noticeable, but also become models for others to follow as well as objects for praising God. This calls for raising your profile / visibility and showcasing your work, not for the purpose of self-glorification, but only to glorify God.