

Children of Light

Study Questions

1. According to the following expressions, what do we often associate with light: a bright idea; shed some light on this; her face lit up.
2. Why are nightlights installed in children's rooms?
3. What purpose do headlights and lanterns serve?
4. Why do we put candles on birthday cakes and shoot fireworks on special occasions?
5. Why do we use a flashlight to help us find something that is lost?

During the creation God divided the light from the darkness (Genesis 1:4). Because light and darkness are incompatible, the scriptures use them to teach us truths about God, His purposes and His ways. According to Ephesians 3:5 God's purpose is that we walk as children of light. This lesson will focus on the meaning and implications of that expectation.

Who are the children of light?

6. Read the following scriptures and then summarize their description of God.
 - a. 1 John 1:5
 - b. Habakkuk 3:4
 - c. Psalm 104:2
 - d. 1 Timothy 6:16

Jesus Christ is called the Light of Israel (Isaiah 10:17), a Light to the Gentiles (Isaiah 49:6; Luke 2:32), a great Light (Matthew 4:16), the True Light (John 1:9), and the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5). In writing to the Corinthians, Paul says, "it is God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who 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 4:6). God's radiance is so bright He is unapproachable by man. But He made Himself approachable in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ reveals to us all we can behold and understand of God.

7. Based on what you observed in question 6, how would you complete the following sentence : Children of light are children of _____.

8. According to the following verses, how does one become a child of light?

a. Isaiah 50:10

b. John 12:46

c. John 12:36

What is the function of spiritual light?

9. What does spiritual light provide in these verses?

a. Psalm 119:130

b. Psalm 18:28

10. What does spiritual light do in the following verses?

a. Daniel 2:22

b. 1 Corinthians 4:5

c. Ephesians 5:13

d. Mark 4:22

e. 1 John 1:7

11. What function of spiritual light is described in the following verses?

a. Job 29:3

b. Psalm 43:3

c. Isaiah 2:5

d. Isaiah 2:5

12. What is confirmed about spiritual light in these verses?

- a. Ecclesiastes 11:7
- b. Proverbs 15:30
- c. Proverbs 13:9

13. What function of spiritual light is mentioned in Psalm 27:1?

Not everyone avails himself or herself of God's light. Job 24:13 confirms that "there are those who rebel against the light; they do not know its ways nor abide in its path." Those who walk without the benefit of spiritual light "grope in the dark" (Job 12:25) and do not know where they are going (John 12:35). Isaiah 50:11 reveals that some people try to walk in the light of their own fire and in the sparks that they have kindled. This is a picture of false, man-made religions and people who live according to their teachings. God warns that their end is torment and pronounces that those "who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness" are desolate and shameful (Isaiah 5:20). But what is spiritual darkness? According to Acts 26:18 it is the domination of Satan. God's has given us "the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ" (2 Cor. 4:4) so that we may turn "from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God" where we receive "forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith" in God (2 Cor. 11:4).

How can we live in the light?

14. What promise is made to the righteous in these verses? How will this help us to live in the light?

- a. Psalm 97:11
- b. Psalm 112:4
- c. Psalm 118:27
- d. 1 Peter 2:9

15. In the Old Testament Tabernacle there was a lamp that God said should burn continually. The Israelites were commanded to bring pure olive oil to the tabernacle to furnish fuel for the lamp. According to the following verses, what is the fuel that will keep our spiritual light burning continually?

- a. Psalm 119:105
- b. Proverbs 6:23
- c. Isaiah 8:20
- d. 2 Peter 1:19

16. What phrase is repeated in the following verses? What insight does this give about living in the light?

- a. Psalms 44:3
- b. Psalms 89:15
- c. Psalms 90:8
- d. Psalms 4:6

17. Read Proverbs 4:18. What do you learn from this verse about living in the light?

What will characterize the life of the children of light?

18. In Ephesians 5:8 we are admonished to walk as children of light. Paul explains that this walk, or lifestyle, consists of "all goodness and righteousness and truth." Read the following definitions of these words from the Enhanced Strong's Lexicon. In your own words, what will characterize the life/walk of the children of light?

- a. Goodness - (Strong's #19) Uprightness of heart and life, goodness, kindness.
- b. Righteousness - (Strong's #1343) In a broad sense: state of him who is as he ought to be, the condition acceptable to God; the doctrine concerning the way in which man may attain a state approved of God; integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, correctness of thinking, feeling, and acting.
- c. Truth - (Strong's #225) Objectively: the truth as taught in the Christian religion, respecting God and the execution of His purposes through Christ, and respecting the duties of man, opposing alike to the superstitions of the Gentiles and the inventions of the Jews, and the corrupt opinions and precepts of false teachers even among Christians. subjectively: truth as a personal excellence; that candor of mind which is free from affection, pretence, simulation, falsehood, deceit.

19. According to 1 John 2:9-10, what is the decisive test of walking in the light?
What does this mean?

20. In your own words, what does it mean to walk as children of light?

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Lesson Notes

Walk as children of light (for the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Ephesians 5:8-10 (NASB)

When was the last time you had a *bright idea*? ...or saw someone's face *light up*? ...or asked someone to *shed some light* on something you didn't understand? These common expressions in the English language illustrate an understood association between light and enlightenment.

Why do we grab a flashlight when we've lost something? Because light exposes things that are hidden.

When we pack lanterns to take on a camping trip, turn the headlights on in the car, we are demonstrating another understood purpose of light: light illuminates the way.

What is the purpose for the candles on a birthday cake? For fireworks on special occasions? Light brings joy. It lifts our spirits.

Why are nightlights installed in children's bedrooms? Light comforts and relieves fear.

These are universal characteristics of light, understood in all times and all places.

During the creation God divided the light from the darkness (Genesis 1:4). Because light and darkness are incompatible, the scriptures use them to teach us truths about God, His purposes and His ways. According to Ephesians 3:5 God's purpose is that we walk as children of light. This lesson will focus on the meaning and implications of that expectation.

God Is Light

The Scriptures tell us that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5). He covers Himself with light as with a garment (Psalm 104:2) and that this light is unapproachable (1 Timothy 6:16). In other words, God is so holy and pure that we cannot behold Him with our physical eyes. No man has seen or can see God (1 Timothy 6:16).

Jesus Christ is called the Light of Israel (Isaiah 10:17), a Light to the Gentiles (Isaiah 49:6; Luke 2:32), a great Light (Matthew 4:16), the True Light (John 1:9), and the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5). In writing to the Corinthians, Paul says, "it is God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who 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 4:6). God's radiance is so bright He is unapproachable by man. But He made Himself approachable in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ reveals to us all we can behold and understand of God.

Those Who Believe in God and in His Messiah Are The Children of Light

Isaiah 50:10 says if those who walk in the darkness and have no light should trust in the Name of the Lord and rely upon God. Jesus said that He had come as "a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness" (John 12:46). The Gospel of John admonishes us to "Believe in the Light that you may become sons of light" (12:36). Therefore, we may conclude that one who is a child of light is a child of God by his or her belief in God and in His Messiah, Jesus. According to God's Word, it is not enough to say we believe in Him. We must believe in God as He has been revealed in Jesus Christ. The remainder of the lesson will not apply to anyone who is not a child of God.

The Characteristics of Spiritual Light

The Scriptures confirm that the characteristics of spiritual light are similar to those of physical light. Spiritual light...

- enlightens our understanding (Psalm 18:28; 119:130)
- reveals hidden sins and motives of the hearts so that they may be confessed and forgiven (Daniel 2:22; Mark 4:22; 1 Corinthians 4:5; Ephesians 5:13; 1 John 1:7)
- illuminates our direction (Job 29:3; Psalm 43:3; Isaiah 2:5; 42:16)
- brings joy and gladness (Ecclesiastes 11:7; Proverbs 13:9; 15:30)
- comforts and calms our fears (Psalm 27:1)

Not everyone avails himself or herself of God's light. Job 24:13 confirms that "there are those who rebel against the light; they do not know its ways nor abide in its path." Those who walk without the benefit of spiritual light "grope in the dark" (Job 12:25) and do not know where they are going (John 12:35). Isaiah 50:11 reveals that some people try to walk in the light of their own fire and in the sparks that they have kindled. This is a picture of false, man-made religions and

people who live according to their teachings. God warns that their end is torment and pronounces that those “who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness” are desolate and shameful (Isaiah 5:20). But what is spiritual darkness? According to Acts 26:18 it is the domination of Satan. God’s has given us “the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ” (2 Cor. 4:4) so that we may turn “from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God” where we receive “forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith” in God (2 Cor. 11:4).

Living in the Light

How can we be certain that we are living our lives under the authority of God rather than of Satan?

First, we claim God's promise that He has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light and has given us light (Psalm 97:11; 112:4; 118:27; 1 Peter 2:9).

Second, we stay close to God's Word to keep the light He has given us burning brightly (Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 6:23; Isaiah 8:20; 2 Peter 1:9). This involves the reading, study, hearing, memorizing and meditating upon the Bible.

Third, we maintain a close relationship with the Light. In the Book of Psalms there is a frequent occurrence of the phrase, “the light of Your countenance.” According to the Psalms, the light of God's countenance is powerful (44:3), and it blesses (89:15) and exposes sin (90:8). In Psalm 4:6 the Psalmist beseeches the Lord to “lift up the light of Your countenance upon us.” These verses reveal the importance of a relationship with the Light. If we want God's light to shine in our lives, then we must maintain our relationship with Him. We, too, must beseech Him to lift up the light of His countenance upon us, for to live in the light is to live in the very presence of God.

Finally, we must obey what God has already revealed to us. Proverbs 4:18 says, “The way of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter until the full light of day.” In other words, as we follow in obedience the light that has been given, more light will shine.

Walking As Children of Light

In Ephesians 3:5 we are admonished to walk as children of light. Paul explains that this walk, or lifestyle, consists of “all goodness and righteousness and truth.” According to the [Strong's Lexicon](#), this means our lives will be characterized by kindness and uprightness of heart; right relationship with God; and personal

excellence with minds free from pretence, falsehood, superstition, deceit, and false doctrine. Notice what is involved: the heart (goodness), the soul (righteousness) and the mind (truth). It is no coincidence that these parallel with the commandment to love the Lord with all our heart, and all our mind, and all our soul. When the light of God's countenance shines into our heart, soul and mind the world will observe goodness, righteousness and truth.

The main evidence of walking as children of light is love for our brothers and sisters in Christ. The Epistle of 1 John states that to walk as children of light we must love each other. In fact, John writes that this love is crucial to walking in the light:

He who says he is in the light; and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no darkness in him. (2:9-10)

Warren Wiersbe helps us to understand the meaning of this scripture in his commentary on 1 John, Be Real:

The Christian life has two relationships: the vertical (Godward) and the horizontal (manward)...And each of these two relationships is to be one of love, one for the other...When we practice true Christian love, we find life getting brighter and brighter. Hatred is what darkens life! When true Christian love flows out of our hearts, we will have greater understanding and perception in spiritual things. This is why Paul prays that our love may grow in knowledge and perception...(cf. Phil. 1:9-10). A Christian who loves his brother is a Christian who sees more clearly.

Sometimes, this is a difficult teaching to obey. Part of the problem lies in our understanding of love. The Greek word used to describe love in the New Testament does not imply a feeling. Christian love is an act of the will. It is desiring and facilitating the highest good for another, not because they merit it or because we feel love towards them, but because Jesus Christ loves them and died for them. We will not be able in our own strength to love some people, but we can allow God to love them through us. When we say kind things to them and do good deeds for them, we can allow Christ to speak and serve through us whether we feel like it or not. When we obey this truth, God will shine His light brighter in our lives. It will get easier and easier to obey and love.

Applying This Truth To Your Life

The truth of walking as children of light has been revealed to you today. The rest is up to you. Can you honestly say that you are a child of light because you

have believed in God the Father and in His Son, Jesus Christ? If so, take some time to write out your answers to these two questions:

- In your own words, what does it mean to walk as a child of light?
- What will you do differently this week to enable you to walk as a child of light?

And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God. John 8:19-21

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