

Light of the World

"While I am in the world I am the light of the world." ~ John 9:5 ~

There are many times in Scripture where God is referred to as Light, sometimes by Himself and other times by others (*Psalm 44:3*, *Ezekiel 1:27*, *etc.*). Throughout the Bible, light references to that which is holy, pure, and good. The world was given over to the darkness – that which is evil and unrighteous. These two – darkness and light – are in constant war over dominion of the earth. With sin entering the world, it was given over to the rule of the enemy, the reign of darkness. However, we as believers know that, in the end, the world will come under the authority of the King of Heaven, the light of the world.

One of the first things God created in the earth was light. He brought forth illumination into the darkness. Later, God gave the Israelites His commandments – His Torah. He brought moral light into moral darkness. He brought morality to an immoral world. He organized the conduct of the world to distinguish the good from the evil. Even further in the story, Yeshua called Himself the light of the world in John 9. He came to save the world, and He truly was the light. *John 1:5* says, "*The light shines in the darkness, and darkness hasn't overcome it.*" Another description for the word "overcome" is to comprehend or to understand. This passage can also be interpreted to mean that the darkness cannot understand the light. When evil comes in contact with good, it cannot always understand what it has witnessed.

Pause: What does it mean to you that the darkness has not overcome the light? What about the darkness not understanding the light?

There are some practical applications to our verse in John 1:5 that may not be clearly apparent upon first glance. To understand what they are, we must dig further into what God has to say about light:

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead,
they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way,
let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds
and glorify your Father in Heaven."

~ Matthew 5:14-16 ~

One interesting aspect of this passage is that the Lord says that we as human beings are the light of the world. When He referred to Yeshua as the light of the world, He clarified that it was for the time that He was walking this earth (*see John 9:5*). When He left, however, there seems to be a charge given to us as believers by this passage in Matthew: we are to be the light bearers in the absence of Yeshua the Light Himself. As we rely on God's strength, the darkness cannot overcome the light. Sometimes, as we share, the world may also not comprehend or understand why we live or behave in accordance with the commands of Scripture and the Spirit of the Lord. But we show God's love and His light anyways through our words, acts of service to others, and thoughts.

We – as image bearers of the King of Kings, the Holy One, the Creator, the Light of the World – have the honor of carrying forth that light to reflect who God is to the dark world around us. In a sinful and broken world, the beauty of His goodness, His grace, and His tender heart towards His children becomes clear. The darker the world, the brighter God's light shines.

Take some time to reflect on what it means for you to carry the light of God to the world around you. What ways are you doing that well, and where could you use to lean more on the Lord to find the strength you need to show the world who He is?

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