



## **“I AM the Light of the World” (John 8:12)**

Light pierces the darkness at a speed limit of 186,000 miles per second, over 670 million miles per hour, about 5.88 trillion miles per year.

- John 8:12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”
- Regarding True Spiritual Enlightenment = Walking in the Light of the One who is the Light of the World.”
- Regarding the Feast of Tabernacles/The Feast of Booths/Sukkot/Israel's Thanksgiving Holiday/Harvest Season Celebration

### **Four Principles for Walking in the Light**

#### **Principle #1: The only genuine source of true enlightenment is the Divine Son of God, Jesus Christ.**

- John 8:12a “I am the light of the world...” cf. Isaiah 9:2; 42:6; 49:6; Mt. 4:14-16; etc.
- Luke 2:29-32 “Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.”
- John 1:4-11 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.  
Psalm 27:1 “The Lord is my light and my salvation”  
1 John 1:5 declares that “God is light”  
James 1:17 tells us that God is the “Father of Lights”
- John 3:19 “This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.”

#### **Principle #2: Walking in the Light begins with believing and trusting in Christ**

- John 8:12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”
- John 12:46 “I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.”
- John 14:6 “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”
- We are no longer “children of darkness.” Instead, we will become what He calls “sons of light” (Jn.12:36; Lk. 16:8) and “children of light” (1 Thess. 5:5)

#### **Principle #3: Walking in the Light involves a lifetime of following and obeying Christ**

- John 8:12 “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”
- Luke 6:46 “Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?”
- John 8:12 = “follows” = Greek: “*akoloutheo*”. As those who are walking in the light...
  - we are to be soldiers of Christ...following Him as our Commander-in-Chief.
  - we are to be slaves of Christ...serving Him as Master and Lord.
  - we are to be disciples of Christ...following His every word.
  - we are to be ambassadors of Christ...living on this earth as citizens of Heaven.
  - we are to be sons of light...responding to the One who is the Light of the World.
- 1 John 1:6 says “If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth...”
- John 3:21 “But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”

### **Three Evidences That We Are Truly Walking in the Light**

#### **Evidence #1. We are truly walking in the Light when we are endeavoring to live pure lives.**

- Ephesians 5:8-13 “...for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.”

### **Evidence #2. We are truly walking in the Light when we are actively loving fellow Christians.**

- 1 John 2:8-10 “On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining. The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.”
- 1 John 1:5-7 “This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”
- 2 Corinthians 6:14 “For what fellowship has light with darkness?”

### **Evidence #3. We are truly walking in the Light when we are bearing witness of the Light to others.**

- Like John the Baptist (John 5:35) and the apostle Paul (Acts 26:16-18; Acts 13:47) we were put here to be light bearers.
- Matthew 5:14-16 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”
- 2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”
- Philippians 2:14-15 “...prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world...”

### **Principle #4: Walking in the Light has tremendous benefits**

- John 8:12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”

Benefit #1 We will not walk in darkness. Benefit #2 We will have the Light of life.

- I Peter 2:9 “But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God’s* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...”
- Hebrews 9:27 “...it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment.”
- John 12:36 “While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light.”

### **Four Benefits of Being a “Son of Light”**

#### **1. As a son of light, we no longer have to grope in doubt and uncertainty.**

- Job 33:28 “He has redeemed my soul from going to the pit; and my life shall see the light.”
- Psalm 18:28 “For Thou dost light my lamp; the Lord my God illumines my darkness.”

#### **2. As a son of light, we no longer have to fear the unknown.**

- Psalm 27:1 “The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?”

#### **3. As a son of light, we can know who we are, where we are going and how to get there.**

- Psalm 119:105 “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path (cf. Ps. 119:130)

#### **4. As a son of light, we can have a clear way out of the darkness into the light.**

- Job 29:3 “When I sit in darkness the Lord will be a light to me.”
- John 11:10 “But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”

### **Closing Challenge:**

Accept a very personal invitation from the One who is the Light of the World!

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Prior to coming to a personal relationship to Christ, how did you seek spiritual enlightenment?
2. In what areas do you have the most difficulty trusting or obeying Christ?
3. What is most challenging for you—Living a pure life? Loving fellow Christians? Bearing witness about Christ?
4. In what ways do you no longer walk in darkness?
5. What did you get most from this message and how will you apply it to your life?