



light of the world
Jesus

*Praying
The
Scriptures
Through
Advent*

candace crabtree

Jesus:

*Light of the
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through Advent

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Praying the Scriptures through Advent

Written by Candace Crabtree

<http://MercyIsNew.com>

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About The Author

Candace is the owner of [Mercy Is New](#) and is just a messed up mama in desperate need of God's fresh, new mercies on a daily basis. She and her husband live with their 3 children in the beautiful foothills of the Smoky Mountains in East Tennessee. God has taken her on a journey through the valley of the shadow of death, by way of her struggle with depression. But, all of it, the highs and lows, is grace. In God's goodness and faithfulness, He has used the dark days to shine the light of Jesus even more brightly into her life. Teaching her to pray the Scriptures was life changing, and now she hopes to share that joy with others.

Introduction

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. In just a few simple words, God commanded that the earth be filled with light. And it was so. Let there be light. From that moment so long ago, this earth has been obsessed with light. Farmers need light. Inventors create new methods for light. We've come to depend on light. We can't live without light. Our days revolve around light. We avoid darkness at all cost. We run from darkness. We buy more fixtures of light so as to not allow one space of darkness in our homes. When those fixtures fail us, we have back-up methods that kick in and dispel the darkness.

As believers, light means even more to us: we proclaim that Jesus is the light of the world.

Join me through this Advent season as we take a closer look at the significance of Jesus as light and the power of His light in our hearts and lives.

Each day we will take a glimpse of a Scripture on the topic of light. We will look at what God says about light, pray through these Scriptures, and turn our hearts toward the One True Light of the World this Christmas season: Jesus.

Praying the Scriptures has had a profound impact on my prayer life and [my journey through depression](#). Praying the very Word of God has given me the confidence to pray and know I am praying His Will. By His grace, the Lord has drawn me to Himself time and time again as I spend time with Him in His Word, repeating His words and the cries of my heart back to Him. It is my heart's desire that praying the Scriptures would also draw each of you to the heart of God.

This guide was intended to be used in whatever ways fit your family in this season. Maybe this will be a devotional for mama in the early quiet morning {or nap time}. Maybe you want to do a study on light with your children through the month of December. If you want to take a simple route with this guide, then just discuss each verse every night at dinner through the Advent season.

No matter how you choose to use this guide, I pray you are blessed. I pray that your Advent season is filled with light, with more of Jesus: the light of the world.

“The spirit of prayer is for all times and occasions; it is a lamp that is to be always burning, a light to be ever shining: everything calls for it; everything is to be done in it and governed by it, because it is and means and wills nothing else but the totality of the soul - not doing this or that, but wholly given up to God to be where and what and how He pleases.”

William Law

Different Ways To Use This Study

There are several different ways you could use this resource guide! I hope you will find this information useful and use it in whatever way is best for your family this season!

- A devotional to use and pray through the Advent season. I love doing word studies from the Bible myself, I love the idea of studying light through this special time of year. So, this could simply be a devotional for someone to use, along with Scriptures to pray each day of the Advent season. Take each Scripture and make it personal, pray about it, thank the Lord for it. Praying the Scriptures doesn't need to be intimidating, just use the Scripture as a starting point to talk to God.
- A word study to use with your homeschool children. Word studies with children can be very beneficial also. Use this guide with your kids each morning of the advent season. Print off the pages and journaling lines so that your kids can personalize their prayers and thoughts on the topic also.
- Use this to spark dinner discussion each night through the Advent season. Maybe you want to just read each verse discussing light with your family at supper, you may not wish to print out the study, but just read each verse and discuss it with your family! Talking to your kids about Jesus being the light is sure to inspire lots of great discussions for you!
- Use this list of "additional resources" to turn this into a full blown unit study with your homeschool family, Sunday School or classroom of children! I have full Pinterest boards of ideas for you to explore the subject of light, including science experiments, art projects, lesson ideas and more!
- Choose 1-2 of the songs listed on the Resources page and learn them with your family. I love starting our day off with a hymn or worship song, then reading from the Word of God, followed by devotion and discussion on the topic at hand. I have provided lots of awesome song selections for you! Watch the youtube video

with your kids, learn the song and sing along each morning as you start your day together!

- Use this as a starting point for a deeper study on the topic of light from the Bible. Where I have listed 1-2 verses each day, instead, you can read the entire chapter! Take notes, find correlating passages, find more verses on light. Dig in deep and find the wealth of treasure awaiting you in God's Word. Each passage that you find, take a phrase or word from that passage and pray it, say it, meditate on it. Fix your eyes on Jesus this month as we eagerly await His birth!

Additional Resources

Pinterest Boards

For educational ideas:

<http://www.pinterest.com/candacecrabtree/jesus-light-of-the-world-educational-resources/>

For arts & crafts & home decor ideas:

<http://www.pinterest.com/candacecrabtree/jesus-light-of-the-world-arts-crafts-home-decor/>

Songs

Use 1 or more of these songs and learn it with your family this Advent season! You can watch the youtube video each morning as you have devotion time or start your homeschool day.

Jesus, Light of the World by Third Day

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czh_t9mBLKI

I Can Only Imagine by Mercy Me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRPGRdbGHSs>

Shine Jesus Shine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g1jKj6Obck>

This Little Light of Mine by Addison Road

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVeB7ACVgO0>

Go Light Your World by Chris Rice

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUTWR4vVIjU>

Majesty of Heaven by Chris Tomlin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ioztNEjMXg>

In Your Light by Bethel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GkBaXle3r4>

Let Your Light Shine by Hillsong Kids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXkxRNEy8XA>

Great Light of the World by Bebo Norman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XMDoyMsE2fc>

Marvelous Light by Christy Nockels

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fX0c8spLc8>

The hopes

and fears of

all the years

are met in

Thee tonight



Genesis 1:1-3

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Then God said, ‘Let there be light;’ and there was light. God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day and the darkness He called Night.”

considering light

Definition of light: noun; the natural agent that stimulates sight and makes things visible. Why did God create light on the first day? Why did He separate it from darkness? Why is that still important to us today? Look back at the definition of light, “makes things visible”. How can this apply to Jesus?

For a few moments, imagine your life without light. No sunrises, no candles, no flashlights, no morning. Could you even live like this? God knew. He knew a world without light would not be a life worth living.

Could we say the same about Jesus in our own lives today? God knew we would be desperate for a Savior. He knew. He knew we would be lost without a Savior, hopeless, dying in our own sin...and He provided a way out, a light, a hope, a future. He gave us Jesus.

prayer

O, Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your Name in all the earth! {Psalm 8} Your creation astounds us. We stand in awe of You, Creator God. We thank You for the gift of light and the gift of Jesus in our lives. You said that the light was good, and we acknowledge Your goodness, Father.





Exodus 13:21-22

“And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people.”

considering light

In this Scripture, we see the definition of light coming to life in the life of the Israelites. The Lord physically “made things visible” for them as they traveled. The Lord provided the Israelites with a fire to guide them through the night.

How has God made things visible in your own life? How has God provided light in times of darkness? How has He shown Himself faithful to you in the darkest seasons?

prayer

Lord, God, You are light. You light our path with Your wisdom, Your love, the radiance of Your beauty. We know we are not alone, even in our darkest moments, because You have provided a Light for our path.



My Prayer



2 Samuel 22:29

“For You are my lamp, O Lord; The Lord shall enlighten my darkness.”



Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

considering light

What darkness do you see around you? What darkness do you find in your own life? We desperately need the light of God to dwell in us and take over. He will shine bright and overcome the darkness. For some, like me, darkness has come in the form of depression. For others, it may be cancer, divorce, chronic illness, a wayward child, loss. Let God shine into your darkness today and allow Him to overcome. We also see much darkness around us in the world today. Allow Him to use YOU to be a light.

prayer

Lord, You are the lamp that lightens our path and shines into all the dark places in our hearts and souls. We are asking You to take over and shine brightly to bring out every place that needs to be captured by Your love. We are asking You to shine the light of Your love and bring light to a dark and dying world. You ask us to join you on this journey, and we pray for the strength and grace to love those around us with Your love. Shine through us!



My Prayer



Psalm 18:28-30

“For You will light my lamp; the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness. For by You I can run against a troop, by my God I can leap over a wall. As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.”

considering light

In Psalm 18, we see that David is delivered by the hand of God. We often tend to think of our Bible heroes as something other worldly--surely God cannot do for us what He did for the heroes in the Bible. But, oh, how limited we are in our thinking. The Lord will light our path just like He did for David. The Lord will deliver us from our enemies just like He did for David.

Our situations may not look the same. It may not be a physical enemy; it may be the enemy of our souls or Satan Himself. But, we are His children, and He will deliver us. This doesn't always mean healing here on earth, but on the days I long for heaven most, I realize that in that moment, when I see my Savior face to face, I will be delivered - in that moment - from every fear, every heartache, every trial, and every enemy that I have faced on this earth.

prayer

Oh, God, You are my deliverer. You alone can shine Your light into the darkness of this world and defeat my enemies. God, sometimes the enemy is my very own mind dwelling on the negative and dwelling on the lies of the enemy. God, sometimes I need Your light to shine so deeply into the places in my heart that I have shut off from the world and those closest to me. May Your light shine into the darkness and overcome with light.



My Prayer



Psalm 27:1

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”



“To secure one’s freedom the Christian must experience God’s light which is God’s truth.”

Watchman Nee

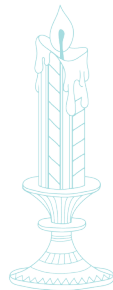
considering light

Psalm 27 has long been one of my favorite Psalms to pray. I have clung to the truth in verse 1 so many times in my own life. THE LORD is my salvation; He is my light. Why do I need to worry about what others think of me? In Christ, I have all that I need. Period. End of discussion.

Oh, but it's not the end, is it? Not until I see my Savior face to face someday will I cease to have the flesh and sin nature creep into my thoughts. You see, from time to time, I do need the reminder that The Lord is my light and my salvation. I do need the reminder that He alone is my strength, and I do not have to fear anything or anyone. What fears do you need to give over to the Lord today?

prayer

You, God, are my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? You are the strength of my life; thank You that I do not have to depend on my own strength, because we know where I would be if that were the case. Thank You that I do not have to live in fear of what man can do to me or say of me because I am Yours. You are my salvation. You have given me my purpose, my calling, my identity. What the world and the enemy say about me are all lies. God, I desperately need You to help me cling to the truth of this verse; remind me, moment by moment that You are my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear?





Psalm 119:105

“Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.”



“The soul can do without everything except the word of God, without which none at all of its wants are provided for.”

Martin Luther

— *considering light* —

In this world, there is darkness all around us. We desperately need LIGHT in our lives. As believers, we have been given a tool with which we can secure more light in our lives, and that is the Word of God. His Word is a lamp for us: it lights our path, it illuminates our steps, it shows us God.

But, sweet friends, if we are not in the Word, how can He use it in our lives to light our paths? If we are not continually going to the source of light, the darkness will creep into our hearts as well. To walk by faith in this fallen world, we must have His Word, which is a lamp unto our feet and a light to our path. Dear ones, He has given us this amazing gift in His Word...but we must open it, read it, study it, memorize it, ponder it, pray it.

— *prayer* —

God, forgive me for the times I have neglected the gift of Your Word in my life. I am turning back to You and Your word because I know without this in my life that I will walk the ways of the world. I need Your light in my life. Lord, Your Word is a lamp to my feet, a light to my path. Help me to use it as such.





Psalm 119:130

*“The entrance of Your Words gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.”*

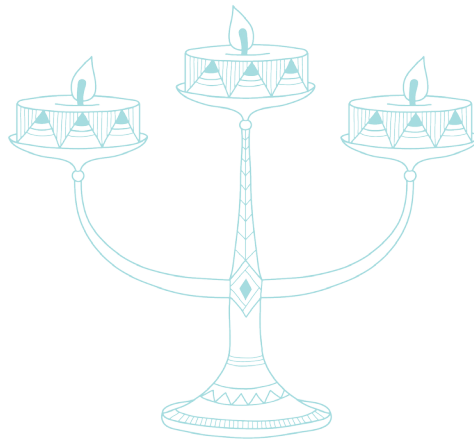
considering light

Ponder what light does in a dark room. Consider turning on a small flashlight or maybe your phone. Now, a little bit of that room has been made visible to the eye. Turn on the main overhead light. Now, you can see everything more clearly, because the entire room is lit up.

It is the same with God's Word: His Words bring light to our lives. His Word gives understanding to our souls. But, if we use just a little bit, only a little is made known and clear to our souls. The more light we use, the more understanding and knowledge we will have. We cannot read a verse and put our Bibles up on the shelf for weeks or months at a time. We need continual renewal and understanding and bread from heaven. This light that we are all desperate for comes from the gift of God's Word.

prayer

Oh, Lord, Your word gives light to my life! You give me understanding through Your Word. Thank You for this treasure.





Psalm 139:12 (niv)

*“Even the darkness will not be dark to You; the night will
shine like the day, for darkness is as light to You.”*

considering light

How can darkness be as light to God? This verse could be confusing, but I choose to take comfort in its words. The God of the universe, who set light into motion from the very beginning of time, He is light. In Him, no darkness can be found.

Think about what “darkness” means to you. It can be evil. It can be our trials. I have referred to periods of depression in my own life as times in the darkness. God does not have evil, trials, or hardship. He is light. No darkness can be found in Him. This verse brings such comfort because I know that one day, when I meet my Savior face to face, when I have breathed my last breath on this earth, at that point there will be no darkness for me.

The darkness is not dark to Him. The other insight that this passage gives me is that He can handle my darkness. It isn't even dark to Him. He can see the whole picture, which we can not. He can see His good purposes, which we are not always privy to. It just is not dark to Him. I'm so thankful, aren't you?

prayer

Precious Lord, the darkness is not dark to You and this gives me HOPE. Thank You that one day, when I'm with You forever in my eternal home, there will be no darkness for me there either. In the meantime, remind me that in You there is no darkness. The hardest things in my own life are not too difficult for you. My most overwhelming moments and situations are not overwhelming for You. You've got this.





Proverbs 15:30

*“Light in a messenger’s eyes brings joy to the heart,
and good news gives health to the bones.”*

considering light

We have discussed how God is light, how His Word illuminates our path and our lives. Today we see that light also brings joy to the heart. I don't know about you, but I have seen this in my own life so many times.

Especially in my darkest seasons, God's Word ~ and the light it brings ~ were the only thing around me I could cling to. I could not trust myself or my own feelings; I had a hard time talking to other people about my struggles, and that is a lonely place to be. But, praise God, I was not abandoned by my heavenly Father. I'm so grateful for the grace He poured over my life during that time because He drew me to Himself and His Word.

My darkest days are the times He taught me to pray the Scriptures. Those are the very times He held my hand and would lead me to a passage that would bring such comfort to my heart. Those are the times I felt closest to Him. And His Word - that light, that good news - gave joy to my heart and health to my bones.

prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You that You meet us in the darkness. Thank You that Your Words give light to our dark places. Thank You that the light of Your countenance and the light of Your Word bring joy to our souls.





Ecclesiastes 2:13

“Then I saw that wisdom excels folly as light excels darkness. The wise man’s eyes are in his head, but the fool walks in darkness.”

—considering light—

Comparing wisdom to light strengthens our knowledge that God and His Word ARE light to us. Folly is darkness. Sometimes we find ourselves in periods of darkness, but this does not mean we are fools. What does make us foolish is when we do not turn to God's Word and the light He gives through His Word during these times.

This wisdom that comes from God--how exactly do we know if it's from God or not? Use this passage as your guide: "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things" Philippians 4:8.

We can ask ourselves questions. Is this true? Is it noble? Is it right? Is it pure? Is it lovely? Is it admirable, excellent, or praiseworthy? If the answer to these questions is YES, then this is from God. Don't be deceived, dear friends--the ways of the world can often disguise themselves as lovely, true, or noble, but usually they cannot be ALL of those things. When we are spending time with God and His Word regularly, we begin to see more clearly because He lights our path, and we can see His wisdom apart from the world's folly.

—prayer—

Lord Jesus, wisdom is better than folly. This we know. The fool walks in darkness. Help us to know the difference between Your wisdom and what the world gives us. Your Word illuminates our path; we see Your wisdom when we see You in Your Word.





Isaiah 9:2

*“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,
upon them a light has shined.”*



*All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish
the light of a single candle.*

Saint Francis of Assisi

considering light

Without Jesus, we are walking in darkness. Without Him, we cannot walk in the light. Before the birth of Jesus, the people were living in the land of the shadow of death...and Isaiah prophesied that those walking in darkness would see a great light.

Many around us still walk in darkness without Jesus. Many around our world have never heard the name of Jesus. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord to break your heart for what breaks His. Open your own eyes to the hurting around you. Who can you give a smile to today? Who needs your words of encouragement? Who in your path needs the light of Jesus today?

prayer

Lord God, we look around and see so many still walking in darkness. But we have the hope that they need. Help us not to be silent. It doesn't take much. God, give us the strength to be an encouragement, to lend an ear, to smile, to give a hug where needed. You have called us to be the light, now give us the courage to do so.



My Prayer



Isaiah 58:6-11 (niv)

“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness[a] will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

“If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

— *considering light* —

Take special note of the first few verses of this passage followed by the proclamation in verse 8. When you do this, **THEN** your light shall break forth, your healing will spring forth, your righteousness will go before you, the glory of the Lord will be our rear guard.

This passage shows us **WHY** Jesus came — to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, to share bread with the hungry, to bring the poor to our house, to clothe the naked.

When we are following Jesus, these will become a part of our lives, too. **THEN** will the light of Jesus shine **THROUGH US** for the world to see. When we live like Him, when we follow Him to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to break the bonds of oppression, **THEN** others can see the light of Jesus in us.

— *prayer* —

Lord Jesus, we long to shine Your light for the world to see. But for that to happen, we need to **LOOK LIKE YOU**. This passage shows us how that is done. Help us, **Father**. In our own strength we have nothing to give our neighbor, but in Your strength our weakness is made strong.





Isaiah 60:1-3

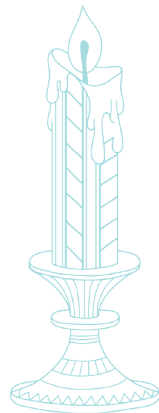
“Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.”

considering light

I love these prophecies in the Old Testament, because I love looking at how God was preparing the people for the arrival of His Son. I love that He so clearly pointed to Jesus verse after verse. Without Jesus, we will continue to live in darkness. Without Him, we are nothing. Without Jesus, there would be no cross, no one made righteous because of the blood of Jesus. But there is hope. Arise and shine! Our light has come! Do not continue to walk in the darkness when we have been given light. Darkness once covered the earth, but no longer do we have to live in that place of fear, death, and darkness. We have light and we have hope because of the blood of Jesus. Go forth and shine.

prayer

It is my heart's desire to walk in the light as You are in the light, Father. Thank You for Your son Jesus. My light has come! Your glory has risen among us. There is still darkness in our world, though, Father. Help us to bring light to the dark places, just as you came to do. Help us to shine Your light--in our homes, to our children, in our communities, and around the world.





Daniel 2:20-23

“Daniel answered and said, ‘Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells in Him. I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of You, for You have made known to us the king’s demand.’”

considering light

What I love most about this passage is that Daniel is acknowledging God as the giver of light and wisdom and knowledge, not taking any of the glory for ourselves. In today's culture, we want the glory, we want the approval and praise of man.

I also love that once again in Scripture, wisdom is placed right alongside light. The wisdom of the Lord enlightens our hearts and minds. We can only find these things in Christ. Yet we spend so much time looking for them in other places. What have you been spending a lot of time or worry on in your own life that you need to just allow God to take over? In what situations have you been looking for wisdom in all the wrong places?

prayer

Lord, You alone have all the wisdom and peace and light that we need. Why do we so often look everywhere but in You and Your Word? Help me, Father. I can't do this on my own. I need You. Every hour I need You.





Matthew 4:16

“The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned.”

considering light

This passage is Jesus quoting from Isaiah 9 and fulfilling that prophesy. Don't you just love the Word of God? This phrasing is just a tiny bit different than the Isaiah passage, and it is equally as powerful and has just as much to tell us.

“...those who sat in the region and shadow of death...”

Have you known anyone to be in the region and shadow of death? What does that look like? According to Jesus, it is darkness. This could be any of us, friends. I think particularly of those with cancer in the hospital receiving chemo, tired and worn down, waiting in the shadow of death. I think of those with mental illness whose minds will just not allow them to work the way we want them to--waiting, hopeless, in the shadow of death.

Friends, that is why Jesus came--to shine light on those HOPELESS situations. Yes, we are never hopeless with Jesus. And that hope? Well, it's not the doctors, it's not the chemo, it's not the magic pills--the hope is Jesus. The hope is forever with Him one day when there will be no cancer, no mental illness, and no waiting in the shadow of death. Be encouraged, friends, because that day is coming.

prayer

Lord, we have all walked in the shadow of death at one point in our lives. We may be there now. We may have just come out or we may be headed in. Help us to know that this world is not our home. You have come to give us hope. We cling to You, Jesus. Light has dawned.





Matthew 5:14 - 16

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”



“Words which do not give the light of Christ increase the darkness.”

Mother Teresa

— *considering light* —

Immediately following the beatitudes from Jesus' sermon on the mount, we are given this beautiful picture of light. I love that it follows the beatitudes, because that passage stands out for one big reason— it's countercultural. The beatitudes tell us we are blessed for practically EVERY reason OPPOSITE what the world tells us are blessings: poor, hungry, persecuted--those are the blessings in God's Kingdom.

So when he gets to this section on light, I am again left in wonder: do you mean to tell me that I am the light of the world? I am the salt of the earth? What about Jesus? Isn't He the light of the world? Oh, yes, but this is where it gets good: in Christ, we are to become like Him. To become like Him, we have to shine like stars in a dark world. We must carry His light into the world.

Our light can't be hidden under a basket - that means you, friend. Your light can't be hidden behind insecurity, jealousy, guilt over your past. You must put your light on a stand so that it will give light to all those around you. Don't hide in fear. YOU have a light to shine — go forth and shine for Jesus. Are we shining for ourselves? Our own accomplishments? Of course not. We shine the light of Jesus, which is what the world needs. That is what our families need. That is what we need.

— *prayer* —

Lord Jesus, You have called me out of the darkness into the world to shine the light you have given me. You are this light. You give me the strength to shine. You give me the grace to come out from behind my insecurities and be who You created me to be. You are the light of the world. We cannot hide Your light, Jesus. We want to let Your light shine before men so that they may see WHO YOU ARE and bring glory to Your name.



Luke 15:8

“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?”

considering light

What does this passage teach us about light? At first glance, this parable really isn't about light, and you could argue that light really doesn't have much to do with it. And yes, there are bigger implications to be found in this parable for sure, but I like to take passages and bring out the smaller phrases that are sometimes overlooked. Often there are big lessons hidden in small phrases.

The woman in this story has lost a coin. Something precious to her. She only has 10, so losing one is a big deal. What does she do when she realizes she has lost one? She turns on a lamp, she sweeps, she searches.

In this parable, the lost coins represent a lost person on this earth and how God desires for each to be found and become His child. What does God do for the lost? He turns on His lamp (the light of Jesus in each of us, His children). He searches! I love this parable so much. He truly does not desire for any to perish without Him. This is the love of the Father. This is the love of Jesus IN us. Friends, we can't hide this love and this light in us.

prayer

Lord, help me to be like the woman in this parable. Help me to shine my light to those around me so that none will perish without coming to know the love of the Savior. Your love, oh, Lord, reaches to the heavens! Your love amazes me.





John 1:1-5

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

— *considering light* —

In the beginning was the Word. In the beginning was God. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. He said, “Let there be light.” And there was light. All things were made through Him. Without Him was nothing. In Him was life. That life is the LIGHT of men. That light SHINES in the darkness. Yet, the darkness cannot overcome it.

That last phrase gives me such hope. When I feel darkness around me and have periods of darkness in my own life - times when I can't feel God like I want to, times when I don't see God like I want to - those times don't mean that the darkness has overcome the light in my life. Those times are there to grow my faith and trust in Him. This reminder in John tells me that the light of life is in me. I am His, therefore the darkness **CAN-NOT** overcome the light. Praise Him! Nothing I do, nothing I feel, no lies the enemy speaks--**NONE** of that can overcome the light in my heart and the light of Jesus in my life. Nothing can separate.

— *prayer* —

Lord God, I slip and fall so often, but nothing I do can take away the light of Jesus that You have placed in my life. You are light. In this fallen world, sometimes I can't see You. Sometimes prayers aren't answered the way I want them to be answered. That doesn't mean that You aren't there. That means that You are growing my faith. You are asking me to believe You. The darkness has not overcome the light, and for that, I am so thankful.





John 1:8

*“He was not that Light but was sent to
bear witness of that Light.”*



*“The cross is the lightning rod of grace that short-circuits God’s wrath
to Christ so that only the light of His love remains for believers.”*

A. W. Tozer

considering light

This verse gives us a heart check. We have talked a lot about shining our light to our neighbors and family, but we absolutely must be shining the light of Jesus, not tooting our own horns.

This can be tricky because the Lord has given us gifts. He has made us fearfully and wonderfully in His image. He has given us unique talents to share with the world. And those gifts and talents? They should point to HIM, never to ourselves.

Take a few moments to evaluate your own shining. In your home, in your community, in your church--wherever you may go. Does your attitude reflect His? Does your gifting point to Him? Do your words reflect His Words? We are not that light; we were sent to BEAR WITNESS to That Light. We are here on this earth to reflect Him.

prayer

Lord, may we never point to ourselves in a lost and dying world that is desperate for a Savior and not another flawed idol. We are not that light, but we were sent to bear witness to You, our Light. May it be so, Lord.





John 3:19-21

“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.”



“The issue is now clear. It is between light and darkness and everyone must choose his side.”

G.K. Chesterson

considering light

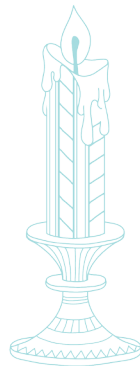
We see so much evidence of this passage in our world today that, quite honestly, it can be overwhelming and very discouraging. But we must continue to cling to the Word of God - truth - and continue sharing the truth of God to a dark world.

I think this is a good place to remind us of the truth found a little later in John 16:33: “I have told you these things so that in me, you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world.”

We cannot dwell on the darkness, the evil, the troubles of this world. We must remember that the battle has been won. We must remember that Jesus won the victory for us on the cross.

prayer

Lord, sometimes the darkness is so thick. Help us to remember, though, that in this world we will have troubles but that You have overcome the world. Thank You, Lord, that we can claim victory in Christ because of the blood of Jesus and His work on the cross. Help us to rest in that.





John 8:12

*“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying,
‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in
darkness, but have the light of life.’”*

considering light

Do you ever look at your own life, your bad habits, your weaknesses, the sin that so easily entangles, and wonder if the light of Christ can truly be in you? Me, too. Yet, I am reminded again and again that the Holy Spirit would NOT be at work in my life if I were not His child. I would not have the conviction of the Holy Spirit, I would not grieve over my sin, and I would be callous and indifferent.

Friends, in this world we will have trouble. Sin will plague our lives until we get to heaven. We cannot let that keep us from shining our light to the world. We cannot let that beat us down so that we are no good for the kingdom.

Jesus tells us in this passage that if we follow Him we will not walk in darkness. Walking is a continual motion; we cannot continually walk in sin and not feel conviction from the Holy Spirit if we are His children. If we are His, our sin will grieve us. We can know His love and His correction and His gentle hand guiding us to repent and walk back in the light with Him again.

prayer

Lord, if there be any sin in me, examine my heart and bring to light the things that You would rid me of. I trust Your work in my life. I thank You for the gentle prodding and conviction of the Holy Spirit in my life. I thank You that because of Your Son there is now no condemnation in Christ.





Acts 22:6 - 11

*“Now it happened, as I journeyed and came near Damascus at about noon, suddenly a great light from heaven shone around me. And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me,
‘Saul, Saul why are you persecuting me?’*

So I answered, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ and He said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’ And those who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid, but they did not hear the voice of Him who spoke to me.

*So, I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Arise and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all things which are appointed for you to do.’ And since I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of those who were with me,
I came into Damascus.”*

considering light

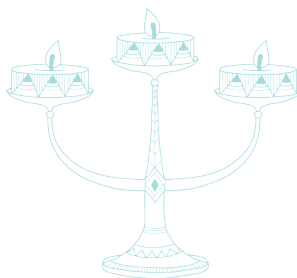
This is such a powerful story of light from the Word of God. I'm sure we are all familiar with the story of Saul/Paul's conversion. I'm sure his story has given many of us hope.

But have we considered the light in this story? The light of God is powerful. I think that is one thing we don't need to forget. God is light and He is powerful, therefore making the light shining forth powerful.

His transforming power can work in any and all situations. The story of Paul gives me hope because it tells me not to give up. The power of God is strong enough to save to the uttermost. He is strong enough to conquer any evil in this world. Saul was one of the biggest enemies of God before the light struck him. This should tell us that the love and power of God is powerful enough to handle anything that comes our way.

prayer

Lord, forgive us for doubting You. You saved us, and you continue saving us from ourselves day in and day out. Why do we doubt? Your plans don't always look like ours, and that is a good thing. But it causes us, at times, to not trust You and for that we repent. Increase our faith, Lord.





2 Corinthians 4:1-6

“Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus’ sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shown in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

considering light

This is a longer passage, but I couldn't leave any of it out. First of all, we can't lose heart. Looking around us, we see the darkness, we see those not handling the Word of God truthfully, we see where the message of Jesus is not being accepted, and people are perishing without Christ.

This is discouraging, yes. But we cannot stop our thought process with those thoughts. We must strive forward and remember that we do not preach of ourselves, but of Jesus Christ. We do not save; God does. We are not sovereign; God is. We are merely His bondservants sent to shine for Him, nothing of ourselves, but all Him and for Him. It is God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness. Let us not forget this powerful truth and be discouraged by what we see around us.

prayer

Lord, You commanded light to shine out of darkness. You have given us the light of knowledge of YOUR glory in the face of Jesus Christ. This is our hope. Remind us not to lose heart. God, it is so easy to lose heart at times. Remind us of Your truth planted deep within us. Remind us of the first time our eyes were opened to Your light. Remind us of our own salvation miracle and when we came to know Jesus as our Savior. It is You who changes hearts and saves lives.





2 Corinthians 6:14

“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?”

— *considering light* —

Can darkness and light commune together? Can they exist together? Think back to our analogy of being in a pitch black room. When you shine even the smallest light - your phone or a small flashlight - can you still consider the room pitch black? It's not that the darkness has disappeared. It's just that it isn't as dark as it once was. Once light enters a room, the darkness dissipates.

It's like that when Jesus enters our lives. We either believe in Him or we don't. It's not a halfway thing. When we accept Him as Savior, the light takes over the darkness and for that we are SO grateful, yes?

The light of Christ in our lives begins to eat away at every bit of darkness in our hearts. But we won't be perfectly free from sin and hardship until we pass from this earth to the next.

— *prayer* —

Lord, light and darkness just don't go together. I pray that the light of Your love will slowly but surely take over every aspect of my life: my parenting, my marriage, my friendships, my relationships with the lost, my work, my gifts--everything. I give it all to You. Use me. Make me more like You. More of You, Jesus. More of You.



considering light

We can give much thanks that we were once in darkness but now we are in the light of the Lord. But, in addition to being thankful, we must continue to walk in that light. We cannot keep that light hidden under a bushel. What does that light look like? The fruit of the Spirit is a great place to start, as is mentioned in this passage in Ephesians. The light is all goodness, righteousness, truth.

If you go back and read the passage right after this verse in Ephesians, you will be given even more instruction on walking in the light of Christ. Read Ephesians 5:15-21.

prayer

Lord, with a grateful heart for being brought out of darkness, I desire to walk in the light as You are in the light. I desire for the world to see Your fruit in my life. May we have no fellowship with darkness. And where we see darkness around us, may we shine Your light even more brightly.





1 Thessalonians 5:4-5

“But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this day should overtake you as a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We are not of the night nor of the darkness.”

considering light

The darkness cannot overtake us. We are children of the light and children of the day. This truth gives us such hope and encouragement. When we feel the darkness closing in, we can preach the gospel to ourselves and remind ourselves that we are no longer living in darkness--we are children of the light! We are not of the night or of the darkness.

What words of truth do you need to remind yourself of today? You are loved. You are forgiven. You are a child of the Most High God. You are not forsaken. In Christ and because of His blood, you are made righteous. We are not children of the dark.

prayer

Lord, thank You that because of You we are no longer living in darkness. Sometimes, though, I need the reminders that the darkness will not overtake me. Thank You, Lord, that I am a child of the light and a child of the day. May I speak those words of life to my children and to those around me still walking in darkness.





James 1:17

*“Every good and perfect gift is from above,
and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no
variation or shadow of turning.”*



*“Imperfection is the prerequisite for grace.
Light only gets in through the cracks.”*

Philip Yancey

—considering light—

At this time of year, it is so easy to picture the blessings and gifts of God's love and the arrival of Your Son and the light He brought to our dark world. At the same time, we know that this season still holds difficult days for many. Every good thing we've experienced is a blessing from You. That said, there are gifts from You that aren't looked upon as good, yet they are still gifts given to make us more like Christ.

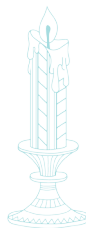
No matter where this particular season finds us in our walks with Christ, we can look around - moment by moment - and find many, many things for which to give thanks. Can we praise Him even in the storm? Can we thank Him even in the hard things?

"All is grace."

Ann Voskamp

—prayer—

Lord, You are gracious. In your lovingkindness, You have given blessings and gifts to us, so much more than we deserve; the gift of Your Son being the best gift of all. Yet, in your graciousness You have also allowed things that, at times, don't seem like gifts. God, help us to worship You no matter our circumstances. Help us to praise You in the storms of this life. May the trials of this season give us hope for our future in heaven but also remind us of the hope of glory - Christ IN ME.





1 Peter 2:9-10

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”

considering light

As God's children, we are the longed for, chosen, much wanted children of our heavenly Father. We are God's special people. Even if you don't feel that today, rest in that truth and find peace in the knowledge that you were chosen by God. And why did He choose us? That we may proclaim the the praise of Him who called us out of darkness.

When we stop to consider just for a few moments what He called us OUT OF, the grace upon grace just fills our heart. He called us OUT of the darkness, OUT of our sinfulness, OUT of a hopeless future...INTO His marvelous light, INTO a future of hope, INTO the family of God, INTO His mercy. Praise Him for His marvelous light!

prayer

God, thank You for making me a part of Your chosen generation, Your royal priesthood, Your holy nation, Your own special people. May I proclaim Your praises for calling me out of darkness and into Your marvelous light. I once was homeless, without a people of my own, a soul with no mercy...but You have changed my today and changed my eternity. Your marvelous light has called me out of darkness. I praise You!





1 John 1:5-7

“This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

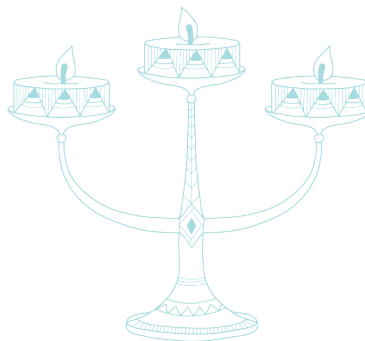
considering light

God is light. In Him there is no darkness. This truth does several things for me. First of all, if I am in Christ, there is no darkness in me either. This allows me to speak truth to myself when I see the darkness around me and may even feel that it is creeping into my own heart. I am His child! I am a child of the light, not of the dark. Secondly, this truth calls me OUT of sin and into repentance.

Do you struggle with the darkness around you? Do you struggle to preach the gospel to yourself when you are discouraged? We all need reminders and this passage is a powerful one that I need so often. If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another. We are covered by His blood. Thank You, Jesus.

prayer

You are light, God, and in You is no darkness at all. If I say I have fellowship with You, I will not walk in darkness. I speak this truth aloud to myself, Father. Remind me that I am now Your child, a child of the light, not a child of the dark. If I walk in the light as You are in the light, I have fellowship with You and with the Body of Christ. Thank You that the blood of Jesus cleanses me from all sin.





Revelation 21:22 - 23

“But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it.”

considering light

Can you even imagine a world where no light is needed? Think back to Genesis 1 when God created light. He separated the light from the darkness. He called it good. But He knew there would be a day - a place - where no light would even be necessary. His glory outshines any source of light, even the source He created for us.

I don't know about you, but this is so hard for me to wrap my mind around. I also know that I don't quite have to be able to grasp it. All I know is that one day, someday, I will be with my Lord forever in the home He created for me where there will not be any other source of light other than His glory. Wow.

prayer

God, You are awesome! We cannot fathom all of your ways. Your love is amazing. In our heavenly homes there will be no need for light. Your glory will be all the light we need...and it will be more than adequate. Your glory fills the whole earth and one day, Your glory will light up the whole earth. The new earth. Heaven. Our eternal home. I can't wait, Lord. Thank You for giving us places like Revelation where we get glimpses of all You are preparing for us. Thank You for the hope of heaven You have placed in our hearts.





Revelation 22:5

*“There shall be no night there:
They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them
light. And they shall reign forever and ever.”*

considering light

This is one of the most exciting phrases we can consider when pondering heaven. There will be no night there. Can you even imagine? No more night. No more darkness. No more sickness. No more death. No more tears. No more pain. No more hunger. No more sick children. No more dying grandparents or moms or dads. No more poverty. No more murder. No more lying. No more deceit.

No more night. We will need no lamp nor even the light of the sun because the Lord God will give us light. HE will be our light. His glory will fill the earth and will be all the light heaven will need.

prayer

God, we look around us and we long for the place and time when we will no longer have night or darkness or death. We long for Your presence, to worship You face to face. We long to be rid of the heartache that plagues our days here on this earth. And, because of You and Your Son - we have hope.



The light shines

in the darkness

and the darkness

has not overcome it