

Enlightened and a Light

1 John 1:5 [NIV] *“This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.”*

God is light, there is no darkness of deception with God.

God has not got a dark hidden agenda in His dealing with human beings.

1 John 4:16 [NIV] *“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.”*

God is love, Greek word “agapé”, a deep affection that is spontaneous, and continually flows out toward the object of that love irrespective of their response.

Matthew 5:43-45 [NIV] *“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”*

The light of the sun that God gives to all humanity, both good and evil, is like His Love for all humanity.

John 3:16 [NIV] *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

This love and light is expressed in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son.

Ephesians 5:8-14 [NIV] *“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: “Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”*

The first thing for us to do, God’s Word, the Christian Bible, tells us is for us to allow God’s light to come into our lives by accepting the sacrifice of Jesus Christ that brings us out of darkness into God’s light.

All we have to do is turn and face the light.

Ultimately there is only one source of light which is the Love of God.

If we have been running away from God, all we can ever see is darkness, since the light is behind us and there is no other light.

All we can see is our own shadow that mocks us, vainly telling us that we can live our lives without the light of God’s Word, Jesus Christ and God’s Word, the Holy Christian Bible.

No matter how far or how fast we have run away from God, all we ever have to do to set things right between us and our Creator God is to turn round and face the light.

We may feel we have a lot of ground to make up before we can be right with God but no, for there is no such thing as distance or time in God’s spirit realm.

The second action, God’s Word tells us to respond to God’s light/love coming into our lives.

We reflect the light/love of God in society.

Matthew 5:14-16 [NIV] “You are the light of the world. A city 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 men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

We are **not** the source of the light.

We only have the capacity of receiving and reflecting this light that comes from the Creator God, the only source of light and love.

We act as a prism.

A prism is only active when a beam of light is shone at it, the prism then reflects this light and shows it in all its spectral colours.

We are to reflect God’s light/love in all its various forms.

Matthew 5:14-16 [Message Bible] “Here is another way to put it. You are here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We are going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, don’t you think I am putting you on a light stand! Now that I have put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand, shine! Keep open house, be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you will prompt people to open up with God. This generous Father in heaven.”

This multi-coloured light is to shine on all those who are still living in darkness.

1 Thessalonians 5:4-8 [NIV] “**But you, brothers, are not in darkness** so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be **self-controlled**, putting on **faith** and **love** as a breastplate, and the **hope** of salvation as a helmet.”

Self-control, faith, love and hope.

We receive all of these through our daily relationship with God.

Through our walking with and being led by the Holy Spirit whom God sent at the request of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is the light come into this darkened world.

John 12:44-46 [NIV] “Then Jesus cried out, “When a man believes in me, he does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. When he looks at me, he sees the one who sent me. **I have come into the world as a light**, so that no-one who believes in me should stay in darkness.”

Jesus Christ came to bring God’s light to this darkened world.

We are to continue to be that light by having in our lives the fruits of our intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-25 [NIV] “But the **fruit of the Spirit is love**, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, **faithfulness**, gentleness and **self-control**. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

These are the fruits that our lives should reflect for they are the fruits of God’s Love.

Reflecting this light and love of God can only be accomplished by a total surrender of our lives to God.

Allowing the Holy Spirit to create these characteristics of God's nature in us.

This is a costly response for it costs a total life sacrifice.

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, **to offer your bodies as living sacrifices**, holy and pleasing to God. this is your spiritual act of worship.”

Having come out of darkness by accepting the grace of God, we are to be lights that will lead others out of darkness into God’s light.