

# The Light

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I have always loved lighthouses, there is just something about them that is very special...they are fascinating to me. I can sit for hours and just watch the light rotating round and round. A brilliant, piercing beam, that shoots out into the blackness and cuts a swath through the inky darkness. Depending upon the power of the light and the type of lens that is used, the beam can be seen for many miles.

When the light revolves around and it is at a ninety degree angle to your vantage point, you can really see the beam shining out from the tower. If there is some moisture in the air, you can see the beam even better, because the water droplets reflect back, from the intensity of the beam they are caught in. There was a time, when those lighthouses were very, very important to navigation. Without them, ships captains were literally in the dark. From their vantage point out at sea, the lighthouses were a welcome sight. Those lights represented safety and a recognizable point from which they could reckon their position and course.

In conditions of limited, or no visibility, the stars could not be used to take a fix and plot a ship's position. Lighthouses provided a solid point of reference and warned of dangers and hazards to navigation. It was so important that these lighthouses remain in operation at all times, that each one had a caretaker that lived right at the lighthouse. Those lights had to be on all the time, without fail...lighting the way, providing safety and a point of reference.

Have you ever been in complete darkness, I mean an utter blackness from where you cannot even see your own hand in front of your face? I have and it is a very strange feeling. Your mind knows things are there, yet without being able to actually see them, or have any kind of sensory feedback, the mind doubts. Steps become hesitant; the mind begins playing tricks on the eyes and sometimes even the ears. Even the sense of touch is hard to trust without the visual feedback to confirm what it is that you are actually touching and feeling. It is impossible to get a bearing, or to orient yourself in any way. You could wander around aimlessly for hours until there is some sort of light by which you can find your way again.

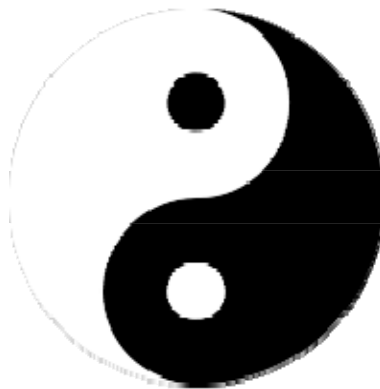
Throughout history, lights have been used as signals, or signs, or to point the way towards something. Remember the signal that was given from the Old North Church as Paul Revere delivered his message...one if by land, two if by sea. Lights are used extensively in advertising, with brilliant and colorful neon lights, lighting up the city streets at night. Lights constantly guide the flow of traffic. Airports rely heavily on lights, both day and night. Lights are used for safety, as warnings and to get our attention when we need to be cautious. Light figures prominently in everything we do. Even our homes are lit by lights at night, so that we can carry on the tasks that we need to do.

With all the great lights that we can see in the heavens and with the brightest lights that man can conceive and create, there was still a light on this earth at one time, that is the greatest light that could ever be seen and the greatest light that has ever been known to man. Even the sun, with all of the power it has, cannot shine as brightly, or brilliantly as this light.

### **John 1:9**

**9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.**

This is a Yin Yang symbol:



The Yin Yang symbol originates from Eastern philosophy and many people there live by the principles represented by this symbol. The circle represents the circle of life, or the complete cycle and order of things. The large black and white portions represent good and evil, or positive and negative...opposing forces in life.

In each of the larger sections, you will notice that there is a smaller dot, or area of the opposing color. This represents that there is a little of the opposing force that exists in either side. The white dot represents a little good in the evil, the black dot represents a little evil in the good...there is a little bit of each opposing power in the other. The basic concept, is that there is a balance to all things in the order of life.

The flaw in this philosophy, of course, is the acceptance of the evil as a natural force and the fact that it is a natural balancing power to goodness. God did not intend for there to be any evil and in His kingdom evil, or sin, will not exist. God is Holy and cannot dwell where there is sin, or evil. Evil just simply will not exist, or those who would seek to do evil, God **WILL NOT** tolerate it.

One interesting thing about this symbol is the spot of white, or good, in the area of black, or evil. That spot of white looks like a beam of light, or maybe like a full moon in a night sky...a bright light shining in the dark; a beacon in the midst of the blackness.

God provided the light and He divided the light from the darkness. The earth was in chaos and darkness, when God began His work to set things right. The very first thing that God did was to bring light into the world and God said it was good!

### **Genesis 1:3**

**<sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.**

God divided the light from the darkness, a clear distinction was made between the two. God wanted this division and He put it into place for a reason.

### **Genesis 1:14**

**<sup>14</sup> Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; <sup>15</sup> and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. <sup>16</sup> Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. <sup>17</sup> God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup> and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.**

God saw that it was good; He was pleased with what He had set in place. It's very interesting that God provided these different types of light, so that no matter how black the night, no matter how dark the situation, or circumstance, there is always a light shining. We are called to be lights and through us God provides another source of light in this world. Always let your light shine, whether others are aware, or not.

### **John 1:5**

**5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.**

We must let our lights shine and more than that we are **required** to let our lights shine. This world is in spiritual darkness and it needs the light of Christ. That light can shine from and through us if we allow it too. Jesus Christ living in us provides that light. That light glorifies God!

### **Matthew 5:14**

**14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**

Have you ever been driving out on the highway at night, on a lonely stretch of road and everything is very dark? Then you come around a bend, or top out on a hill and you begin to see a glow. At first it is just a dull glow near the horizon, but as you go along it begins to get brighter and brighter reaching up into the night sky. Then pretty soon you will see a sign that says the name of the city, or whatever the name of the town is, so many miles ahead. You can see the lights; you can see the glow from that city, a long way out. That's what Christ is talking about here!

### **Luke 11:35**

**35 Therefore take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness. 36 If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, the whole body will be full of light, as when the bright shining of a lamp gives you light."**

Once again, the flaw in the Yin Yang philosophy becomes clear. There is no room for any darkness in the light. Here we are cautioned about that very thing. Light drives away the darkness, everywhere the light shines, the darkness disappears!

God's spirit should be evident in us, an integral part of our lives, a vital component of who we are and what we are about. Our light should flow out of us...brilliantly shining forth, illuminating our way and everything and everyone around us.

Light illuminates what can't be seen, it enhances the senses, bringing clarity and helping us to see. Light brings guidance and direction, it provides comfort and security. Light also attracts, we like to be where it is light...it is soothing and calming to us. Light also brings wisdom, knowledge and understanding. Light attracts those things that are good and positive and reinforces them. It is natural, to want to gravitate towards the light, to goodness and things which are positive and uplifting. Darkness attracts those things which are bad, evil things and things that seek to be hidden. It is a fact, that most crimes occur at night.

### **John 3:19-21**

**19 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. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."**

Lights need a power source, the better the source of power, the better the quality and quantity of light that is produced. The materials a light is constructed of, also affect the quality and quantity of light that is produced. Candles use wax as their power source, flashlights use batteries, fires require wood and the lights in homes are powered by electricity. Even the sun has a power source. The moon has no power source of its own, but it reflects the light of the sun. It has an indirect power source. If there were no sun, the moon would not give its light.

Our lights have a power source too. Our power source is God and Christ living in us. We have to maintain a good connection to our power source if we want to produce a bright, brilliant and intensely powerful light. What would happen if you took a lamp from your house outside and started walking down the street with it? It would produce light for a short time, but then it would come unplugged and the light would go out, right? We have to stay securely plugged in to our power source, if we are going to continue to produce a quality light.

How do we do that? By prayer, bible study, meditation...by growing and maintaining our relationship with God, by continuing to learn and grow in grace and knowledge...and by making changes in our lives when necessary. That is how you work the spots of darkness out of the light!

Is it possible for our lights to go out once they are lit? Once we have connected with God, once we have accepted Christ, I don't know if it's possible for our lights to go completely out, or not. We do see one example from scripture about the importance of keeping the source of our light replenished.

### **Matthew 25:1**

**1 "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.**

I do know that just as a light can burn down to the smallest glowing ember, our lights can burn down to the point that no one at all can see them, or be illuminated by them. Unfortunately, I have personally seen people in this condition. If a lighthouse is allowed to go out and the light it produces is absent, it creates severe hazards and risk for those who depend on its guiding beacon.

Sometimes, people intentionally hide their lights, or even try to extinguish them altogether. That light is part of who we are, or it should be. We are called to be lights to this world, that is our duty, it is expected of us! If you don't want to let your light shine, if you are afraid or embarrassed to let your light shine...then I have to ask, did you count the cost? We cannot hide what we have been given!

### **Luke 14:27**

**27 And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it — 29 lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'**

And here is why it is so important...

## **Matthew 5:16**

**16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**

It's not about us! It's about glorifying God through your works and through your example. We are to be taking on the characteristics of God and His Son, and people should be able to see that in your life. Is the way you act, the way you present yourself, the attitude you use when dealing with others, the way you really want people to see the God you know and love? That is something we really need to be thinking about...carefully and prayerfully.

I have known people that were afraid of others finding out that they kept the Sabbath, they were afraid that others would find out their beliefs and brand them as some kind of religious fanatic, or some sort of zealot. They did not want the people they worked with to find out they were a Christian and carefully went about hiding that fact from others. If we do not claim Christ, he will not claim us!

## **Matthew 10:32-33**

**32 "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.**

If you are not allowing your light to shine, then you are hindering one of the greatest works that can God can do through you! Your light is a witness to the world and to those around you, of what God has done and is doing in your life and of the joy and hope that lies within you, because of what God has revealed to you. People see...people watch...people notice. Your actions, your attitude, the way you approach life, the way you interact with others, speaks volumes about who you are and what you believe.

We are representatives...people look at us to see what Christians are supposed to be! That's why Christianity has to be a way of life; we have to be doers of the word and not only hearers. If we are doing all the things that we should be doing, if God's law is written in our hearts and minds, we will not have to try hard to make our lights shine. It will be a natural occurrence. Because of our way of life, because of our relationship with God, because of the hope that is in us our lights will burn bright and with an intense brilliance that all will see!

That is why Christ tells us not to hide our lights; He wants us to be seen! He wants the world to see the benefits of living by God's laws and following a life of Christianity. We should want to be seen too, but not for our own glory, or self arrogance, or out of pride. I have ran across people like that too. I was told by a person one time, that they were a perfect example of a baptized Christian. I could only feel sorry for them and pray for them.

Anything and everything we do should be to glorify God! It is not about self, or placing the attention on us, but on God! God is to be glorified!!

### **Matthew 5:16**

**16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**

Let your light shine brightly, brilliantly, don't let anything obstruct it and let it provide illumination and a beacon, pointing the way to our God in this dark world that needs Him so much. That is what Christ intended, that is why He told us to not hide our lights, but to let them shine out into the world. So let your light shine...

(All scriptural references cited from the New King James Edition of the Holy Bible)

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