

Jesus is the Light **- Ron Stullenbarger -**

To live in the light is to center our lives wholly on its only true source: Jesus. Jesus declares in John 8:12, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* As those committed to following Jesus, we are constantly being led by Him into the light. He is constantly beckoning us away from the darkness of this world and calling us to a life centered on Him and His kingdom.

In and of ourselves, we have no light. Left to our own devices, we would live our entire lives in darkness, void of the abundance of joy and peace available to us in God. But through Jesus the light has come. The Holy Spirit now dwells within us, the glory of God in the hearts of men. If we will simply surrender our lives to God and the light He brings, we will experience a life of freedom and joy founded in His unconditional love. If we will choose to place Jesus at the center of all we do and who we are, we will receive mighty deliverance from the constraints and bonds of darkness.

You see, the path out of darkness always begins by looking to the light. We can't escape darkness if darkness is all we're looking toward. We can't escape sin by just focusing on it and trying to fix it, heal it, or set ourselves free. Freedom comes by turning our attention to the God who conquered sin and death and fixing our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith.

2 Corinthians 4:6 says, *"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."* The light of God is within you. Your life as a Christian is hidden in Christ. The darkness will not overcome you. Your freedom has come in the person of Jesus. The love of God is real, available, and powerful enough to set you free from whatever darkness entangles you.

Turn your attention fully toward Jesus. Center your life on His loving-kindness. Open your ears and heart to this good God who would lay down His life to save yours. Follow Him wherever He guides you in full faith that He will only lead you into more abundant life. Cease striving for your own freedom and wrap your life up in Jesus that He might be your great deliverer, healer, and source of comfort and strength.

God has abundant grace in store for you if you will simply position yourself to receive it. Take time in prayer to reflect on the light that has come through Jesus, turn your attention completely toward Him, and receive the freedom and healing that comes from union with the God of light.