

PURSUING OUR CAPACITY

“Light and life to all he brings...” from, ‘Hark! The Herald Angels Sing’

Living As People Of Light

Thoughts from Genesis 1:1-5

1. Light can only be light if darkness is present
2. Light serves as a boundary to darkness
3. Light and darkness can **coexist**...not same as **mingle**
4. The duality of light and darkness is not an equal one
5. Light brought order over chaos
6. Light is subject to God's commands
7. Light is good

Light Reveals Deeds

John 3:19-21 NIV

¹⁹ ...Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Please note: knowledge of the beauty and benefits of Light does not prevent its rejection.

Light (Jesus) Reproducing Himself

John 1: 4-5 NIV

⁴“In him was **life**, and **that life was the light** of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

John 8:12 NIV

¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “**I am the light of the world**. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but **will have the light of life**.”

Light (Disciples) cannot be hidden

Matthew 5: 14-16 NLT

¹⁴ “You are **the light of the world**—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your **good deeds** shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Ephesians 5: 8-14 NLT

⁸ For once **you were full of darkness**, but **now you have light** from the Lord. **So live as people of light!** ⁹ For this light within you produces only what is **good and right and true**.

¹⁰ Carefully determine **what pleases the Lord**. ¹¹ Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; **instead, expose them**. ¹² It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. ¹³ But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, ¹⁴ **for the light makes everything visible**. This is why it is said,

“Awake, O sleeper,
rise up from the dead,
and Christ will give you light.”

1. True Worshipers

John 4:23-24 NIV

²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

“THE FACT THAT GOD SEEKS TRUE WORSHIPERS IMPLIES THAT THERE ARE FALSE WORSHIPERS.”

2. Authentic Disciples

1 John 1:5-7 NIV

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: **God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.** ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not **live out the truth.** ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

3. Humble servants

Matt 20:25-28 NLT

“²⁵ ...You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. ²⁶ But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. ²⁸ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

‘Humility is the pathway to serving God and others’

4. Faithful Stewards

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 ESV

¹“This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.”

- 1. Money**
- 2. Gifts and Talents**
- 3. Time**
- 4. Relationships**
- 5. Environment**

5. Unashamed Witnesses

2 Timothy 1:8-12 NLT

⁸ So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord. And don't be ashamed of me, either, even though I'm in prison for him. With the strength God gives you, be ready to suffer with me for the sake of the Good News...¹¹ **And God chose me** to be a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of this **Good News.**¹² That is why I am suffering here in prison. **But I am not ashamed of it, for I know the one in whom I trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until the day of his return.**

Do we trust God?

Romans 13:11-14 NLT

¹¹ This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the ***shining armour of right living***. ¹³ ***Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see.*** Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarrelling and jealousy. ¹⁴ ***Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.***

A person with a backpack stands on a rocky mountain peak at night, looking out at a vast, starry sky. The scene is illuminated by the soft glow of the stars, creating a serene and contemplative atmosphere. The person is positioned in the lower center of the frame, providing a sense of scale to the vast landscape.

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