

The Light of God



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“There is a great work to be done in bringing human minds out of darkness into the marvellous light of God.” Fundamentals of Christian Education p359

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God the Father is hidden by a glorious light. We sing of Him in the following hymn.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.”
Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render: O help us to see
“Tis only the splendour of light hideth Thee.”
New Advent hymnal No.21. 1st and 4th verses.

These verses are drawn from the Scriptures, “Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.” 1 Timothy 1:17. James 1:17.

Another hymn uses similar words,

“O worship the King, all glorious above,
O gratefully sing His wonderful love,
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of days,
Pavilioned in splendour, and girded with praise.
O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space...”
New Advent hymnal No.83. 1st and 2nd verses.

“Bless the Lord O my soul. O Lord my God Thou art very great; Thou art clothed with honour and majesty. Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment....” Psalm 104:1.2.

When Sister White was in vision, she could see Jesus’ lovely countenance, but the Father was covered with a cloud of glorious light through which her eyes could not penetrate.

“Does the Father have a form like yours?” she asked Jesus.

“Yes”, He replied, but added, “If you should once behold the glory of His person, you would cease to exist.” EW p54.

Of this vision Ellen wrote, “The Father was enshrouded with a body of light and glory, so that His person could not be seen; yet I knew that it was the Father and that from His person emanated this light and glory.” Ibid p92.

According to the Bible, God the Father is “dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto, whom no man hath seen, nor can see; to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.” 1 Timothy 6:16.

We are counselled, “not (to) attempt to lift with presumptuous hand the curtain behind which He veils His majesty.... It is proof of His power and mercy that there is the hiding of His power, that He is enshrouded in the awful clouds of mystery and obscurity; for to lift the curtain that conceals the divine presence is death.” 5T p301.

When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, they became fearful of meeting their Creator. Would He be angry with them? Instead, the Son was communing with His Father on their behalf, offering to pay the penalty of death for their sin. Although the covenant pledge had been made in eternity, it was difficult for the Father to allow His beloved Son to fulfil His promise.

“Three times He (God’s Son) was shut in by the glorious light about the Father, and the third time He came from the Father we could see His person. His countenance was calm, free from all perplexity and trouble, and shone with a loveliness which words cannot describe. He then made known to the angelic choir that a way of escape had been made for lost man....” EW p126.

Lucifer, the first of the covering cherubs, stood “in the presence of the great Creator, and the ceaseless beams of glory enshrouding the eternal God rested upon him.” PP p35. But he was jealous of God’s Son and determined to have His “exalted position”. 8T 268. PP 40.

As a created son, Lucifer was subject to God’s only begotten Son, who had “been made equal with the Father.” 8T 268. 5BC 1148. 1SM 292.

Before the assembled inhabitants of heaven “the King declared that none but Christ, the only begotten of God... was committed to execute the mighty counsels of His will.” 1 SP 22. PP 35.

God’s Son was “the only being in all the universe that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God.” PP 34. GC 493.

At the Incarnation, the Son of God “veiled the dazzling splendour of His divinity and came to live as a man among men, that they might, without being consumed, become acquainted with their Creator.” 8T p265.

After John has baptised Jesus, Christ kneels on the banks of the Jordan and prays. “The heavens are opened... and the light of God’s glory, brighter than the sun at noonday, came from the throne of the Eternal, and

assuming the form of a dove with the appearance of burnished gold, encircled the Son of God, while the clear voice from the excellent glory was heard in terrible majesty, saying, 'This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased'." IHP p39.

The glorious light that takes the form of a dove, encircles the head of Christ, anointing Him with God's Spirit. It is the sign to John that Jesus is the Messiah.

Satan too was at the Jordan that day. "He saw the brightness of the Father's glory overshadowing the form of Jesus... (he) well knew the position which Christ had held in heaven as the Son of God, the beloved of the Father." 5BC p1078. He was determined to defeat the Son and destroy the plan of salvation.

The Spirit surrounding the Father is omnipresent. It is by His Spirit that God the Father and His Son can be everywhere in the universe. "The Lord's throne is in heaven' (Psalm 11:4); yet by His Spirit He is everywhere present. He has an intimate knowledge of, and a personal interest in, all the works of His hand." Ed p132.

The Spirit is not merely an outward covering, it emanates from God's very being. It was the same for Adam and Eve. When they were created, the light of God's Spirit radiated from within, giving them garments of glory. "So long as they lived in obedience to God, this robe of light continued to enshroud them." PP p45. When they sinned, the robe of light "disappeared" and Adam and Eve were no longer temples for God's Spirit. Ibid p57.

Praise God He has made a way – through His Son – for us to again be His temple. At present, the Spirit is not shining visibly from His people, although on rare occasions it is made visible to others as the message of truth is presented.

Before the coming of Christ, all the redeemed will be filled with the Spirit and God's glory will shine from them. Until then, the promise is given that "the light which fell from the portals upon the head of our Saviour will fall upon us as we pray for help to resist temptation." DA p113.

The Spirit of Jesus is *with* His people in their meetings, for He says, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20.

But He promises to be even closer than *with* His people, for He says, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” Revelation 3:20.

He will be *in* His people, not simply as a power or an influence, but as our beloved Saviour – in Spirit. Then your “whole nature will... be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ, and even your thoughts will be subject to Him.” 5T p514.

It was Christ’s longing desire for His disciples and those who believe on their word, that they might be one with His Father. He prayed, “that they all may be one, as thou Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also might be one in us: that the world may know that thou hast sent me... I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one...” John 17:20-23.

The Spirit, proceeding from the Father to the Son, is given to all who have surrendered to Christ. It “...binds the human agent, body, soul, and spirit, to the perfect, divine-human nature of Christ. This union is represented by the union of the vine and the branches. Finite man is united to the manhood of Christ. Through faith, human nature is assimilated with Christ’s nature. We are made one with God in Christ.” 1 SM 251.

“The sinner unites his weakness to Christ’s strength, his emptiness to Christ’s fullness, his frailty to Christ’s enduring might. Then he has the mind of Christ... Thus through the agency of the Holy Spirit man becomes a partaker of the divine nature.” DA p675.

Only when Christ’s *holy* Spirit is within can we be the light of the world. Jesus said, “The beams of the Son of Righteousness must shine into your own heart if you would impart light to others.” 1 SM 411.

Christ promised to send a Comforter for His people. “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be *in you*.

I will not leave you comfortless: *I will come to you*.

Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in

my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and *will manifest myself to him.*” John 14:16-21.

One of the disciples asked Jesus, “Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?” Jesus answered, “If a man love me, he will keep my words... and we will come unto him, and make our abode in Him.” John 14:22.23. “By the Spirit, He (Christ) said He would manifest Himself to them.” DA p670.

When the Spirit comes to you, it is the personal presence of the Son – in Spirit.

The light of God was inherited by the Son when He was begotten by His Father. He continues to receive the Spirit from His Father (who is its great Source), and He passes it on to all who are sanctified.

We do not want another Spirit, “We want the Holy Spirit, which is Jesus Christ.” Lt.66. 1894 (April 10. 1894. par.18)

For sanctified human beings, the Holy Spirit is Christ working in them. “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, even the Spirit of truth, (which is Christ formed within, the hope of glory), whom the world cannot receive...” Ms.24. 1898 (Feb.22,1898. Par.21) (Brackets are in the quote)

When Jesus – in Spirit -- is present in our meetings, or with us in our private worship, He hears our prayers, our penitent confessions, our songs of praise, our heartaches and joys, and in harmony with the will of the Father, returns precious blessings, comforts us in our trials and strengthens us to overcome.

This is Christ’s promise to us, for He said He would not leave us as orphans, *He would be our comforter*, not another person, not even another God-Being.

It would be Jesus Himself in Spirit. He understands our sorrows, trials and struggles, and He is the One who can strengthen and comfort us.

“Earthly comforters may do their best... but there is no comfort like Christ... His Spirit speaks to the heart... no circumstances can separate us from the Comforter.” Lt 896. 1897. (Mar 22. 1897) Par 5. EGW.

“While Jesus ministers in the sanctuary above, He is still by His Spirit the minister of the church on earth...”

“While He delegates His power to inferior ministers, His energizing presence is still with His church.” DA 166.

The omnipotent Spirit is a very real presence, whether we call it the Spirit of the Father or the Spirit of the Son, it is the same Spirit. Romans 8:9-11. Eph 4:4.

“The reason why the churches are weak and sickly and ready to die, is that the enemy has brought influences of a discouraging nature to bear upon trembling souls. He has sought to shut Jesus from their view as the Comforter, as One who reproveth, who warns, who admonishes them saying, ‘this is the way, walk ye in it.’” R&H. Aug 26. 1890.

As you spend time in your place of prayer, let the eye of faith see the throne of God with its glorious light surrounding the Father.

Allow your mind to see Jesus bathed in the glory of His Father, and watch as the light falls over the edges of the heavenly city, for “the threshold of heaven is flooded with the glory proceeding from the throne of God, that the light may fall directly on those who are seeking the help that Christ alone can give.” UL p107.

When we study a passage of Scripture, “...light from the throne of God will shine into the soul.” OHC p31. These new thoughts are not from our own minds: they are God’s Spirit illuminating our understanding.

“Abiding in Christ means a constant receiving of His Spirit, a life of unreserved surrender to His service.... As the vine branch draws sap from the living vine, so are we to cling to Jesus and receive from Him by faith the strength and perfection of His own character. Living in Christ, adhering to Christ, supported by Christ, drawing nourishment from Christ, you bear fruit after the similitude of Christ.” DA p676.7.

When Jesus returns in His own glory and the glory of the Father, He will be “clad in the robe of light which He has worn from the days of eternity.” LHM P173. It is clothing “such as the angels wear.” SR p21.

And you and I – if faithful – “may rise from the dust, and stand forth arrayed in garments of light.” SD p124.

As renewed and sanctified children of God, we are once again privileged to be the temple of His Spirit. Now we have only “an earnest” or deposit of the

Spirit, but when taken to our heavenly home, we will have its fullness.

“From the eternal ages, it was God’s purpose that every created being, from the bright and holy seraph to man, should be a temple for the indwelling of the Creator.” IHP p191.

In heaven, the Father will be seated upon His throne of glory and the Son will be at His right hand. The only throne of God’s Spirit is the sanctified heart and mind of every created and redeemed being in His great family.

We must ask ourselves – Will my heart be the dwelling place of God’s true *holy* Spirit then?

The answer:

Only if it is the throne of His Spirit today

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Remnant Messages

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