

Doctrine of Light

1. The term light is used in a variety of ways in Scripture.
2. The word is used of physical light, which became the first of God's creative acts.
 - *Genesis 1:3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.*
3. God was pleased with the physical light He had created. He saw that it was good.
 - *Genesis 1:4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.*
4. The light He had created, God called day.
 - *Genesis 1:5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.*
5. The purpose for light was to give illumination of the heaven and to give light upon the earth.
 - *Genesis 1:15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.*
6. The physical light God created was divided into a greater and a lesser light.
 - *Genesis 1:16 And 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.*
7. In addition to the permanent physical lights to illuminate the universe, God, on occasion, created special light sources, as He did for Israel during their wilderness journey. There was a special cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night for two purposes.
 - To give light for guidance. *Exodus 13:21 And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:*
 - To provide physical protection. *Exodus 14:20 And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night.*

Special Note.

The same sun which melts the butter will harden the clay. The gospel sun that shines upon the heart of a sinner causing it to melt in repentance and sorrow over sin, will harden the heart of a Pharaoh. So the pillar of cloud. It gave light to the elect people of God but plunged others into darkness.

8. In the Wilderness Tabernacle, oil, a sign of God the Holy Spirit, burned in the golden candlesticks or lampstands, to give light for worship and the work of the ministry.
 - *Exodus 25 And thou shalt make the seven lamps thereof: and they shall light the lamps thereof, that they may give light over against it.*
 - *Exodus 27:20 And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always.*
9. In the absence of light men do many evil (injurious) deeds.
 - In the night a woman was raped. *Judges 19:25 But the men would not hearken to him: so the man took his concubine, and brought her forth unto them; and they knew her, and abused her all the night until the morning: and when the day began to spring, they let her go. 26 Then came the woman in the dawning of the day, and fell down at the door of the man's house where her lord was, till it was light.*
 - In the night Saul slaughtered the Philistines. *1 Samuel 14:36 And Saul said, Let us go down after the Philistines by night, and spoil them until the morning light, and let us not leave a man of them. And they said, Do whatsoever seemeth good unto thee. Then said the priest, Let us draw near hither unto God.*
 - In the night Judas betrayed Jesus. *John 13:30 He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night.*
10. When the permanent Tabernacle was built by Solomon, God was determined there would be sufficient light in the sanctuary.
 - *1 Kings 7:4 And there were windows in three rows, and light was against light in three ranks. 5 And all the doors and posts were square, with the windows: and light was against light in three ranks.*
11. The term light is used in ways in the Bible other than a reference to physical light which speaks of diffusive glory and splendor.
12. There is the reflected light of Divine glory and promise.
 - *1 Kings 11:36 And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant may have a light alway before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there.*
 - *2 Kings 8:19 Yet the Lord would not destroy Judah for David his servant's sake, as he promised him to give him alway a light, and to his children.*

- *2 Chronicles 21:7 Howbeit the Lord would not destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that he had made with David, and as he promised to give a light to him and to his sons for ever.*

13. There is intellectual light which speaks of truth and salvation.

- *Psalms 27:1 A Psalm of David. The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

On the great issues of life, light comes from God.

- *Psalms 36:9 For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.*

14. There is moral light which speaks of holiness.

- *1 John 1:5 ... God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*
- *Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:*

Special Note.

Billy Graham once said that if a nation has trouble remembering how long a yard is, it is because they have thrown away their measuring stick. And if a nation has trouble determining what is right or wrong, it is because they have thrown away its moral measuring stick, the Bible. Only God can enlighten the moral darkness in a nation.

15. Individuals are plunged into darkness when the moral light of the eyes are blinded by the world, the flesh, and the devil. Only the Lord can enlighten the darkness of the soul.

- *Psalms 18:28 For thou wilt light my candle: the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness.*

16. The moral light by which men see is the Word of God.

- *Psalms 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*
- *Psalms 119:130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.*

17. The Word of God will teach individuals how to be just, and the path of the just shall be as the shining light.

- *Proverbs 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

18. When there is justice there is light, and where there is moral light, there will be rejoicing.

- *Proverbs 13:9 The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.*
- *Proverbs 15:30 The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart: and a good report maketh the bones fat.*

19. The light of morality is sweet.

- *Ecclesiastes 11:7 Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun:*

20. When God wants to judge a nation, He allows them to sink into moral darkness. But when God wants to bless a nation, He sends them Christ and the Gospel.

- *Matthew 4:16 The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.*

21. Speaking in spiritual terms, the Lord taught important truths about spiritual light.

Jesus said that His followers were the light of the world.

- *Matthew 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

Jesus said that light would be effusive in the person who was single-minded.

- *Matthew 6:22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. 23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!*

Jesus said that His followers should live and speak out openly.

- *Matthew 10:27 What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.*

22. As God the Father clothes Himself in Light, so does God the Son.

- *Matthew 17:2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.*

23. Christ is the True Light of all men in all the world.

- *John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*
- *John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*
- *John 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*

24. There is hope for every society that becomes engulfed in moral and spiritual darkness. Because of Christ, the light will prevail.

- *John 1:5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

25. Jesus is the True Light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

- *John 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.*

26. Individuals love darkness rather than light, lest they should be rebuked.

- *John 3:20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.*

27. Those who do come to the light and do not cover up their wrongful deeds, are said to be born of God.

- *John 3:21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*

28. Individuals can enjoy being a vessel of spiritual light.

- John the Baptist. *John 5:35 He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.*
- Stephen. *Acts 7:55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,*
- Paul. *Acts 13:47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.*
- Every believer (to some degree). *2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;*

29. Those who walk in moral and spiritual darkness will stumble as certainly as those who walk without physical light to guide their path.

- *John 11:10 But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.*

30. Without Christ, men will stumble.

- *John 12:35 Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.*

31. Saul of Tarsus walked in religious darkness until he met the resurrected Christ in the light of His glory.

- *Acts 9:3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:*

32. The diffusive glory and splendor of light is associated in Scripture with God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, the glorified saints, and angels.

- *Acts 12:7 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.*

33. Unbelievers are naturally afraid of God in His glorious light and majesty.

- *Acts 22:9 And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me.*

34. The glory of God will blind the eyes of men apart from Divine restraint or covering.

- *Acts 22:11 And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus.*

35. The gospel exhortation is for individuals to put on the armour of light against the world, the flesh, and the devil.

- *Romans 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*

36. The Second Coming of Christ will bring to light the hidden things of darkness at the Great White Throne Judgment Seat.

- *1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.*

37. As a form of divine judgment, God will allow Satan to blind the minds of men.

- *2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

38. No believer should be unequally yoked together with an unbeliever.

- *2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?*

39. Always the jealous Imitator, Satan, can transform himself into a false angel of light.

- *2 Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*

40. Every authentic Christian is associated with spiritual light.

- The Christian is to be distinguished by light. *Ephesians 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:*
- The Christian is promised light. *Ephesians 5:14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.*
- The Christian is to give thanks for the gospel light. *Colossians 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:*
- The Christian is called into the Lord's light. *1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*
- The Christian is to love to demonstrate light. *1 John 2:8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. 9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. 10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.*

41. Unlike the petty false gods of Egypt, Babylon, Greece, and Rome, God is light. While darkness is present around Him, in Him there is no darkness.

- *1 John 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*

42. Only the person who walks in the light will be cleansed of all sin.

- *1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

43. In heaven there is no artificial light.

- *Revelation 7:16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.*
- *Revelation 21:11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;*
- *Revelation 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.*
- *Revelation 21:24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.*
- *Revelation 22:5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.*