

Doctrine of Light

1. The word “*light*” is used in *Scripture* in both a literal and metaphorical manner.
 - Literally. *Genesis 1:3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. Genesis 1:4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.*
 - Symbolically of David. *2 Samuel 21:17 But Abishai the son of Zeruiah succoured him, and smote the Philistine, and killed him. Then the men of David swore unto him, saying, Thou shalt go no more out with us to battle, that thou quench not the light of Israel.*
 - Symbolically of a remnant according to the election of grace. *1 Kings 11:36 And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant may have a light always 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 always a light, and to his children.*
 - Symbolically of Christians. *Matthew 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*
2. The purpose of physical light derived from the sun, moon and stars is to distinguish between day and night.
 - *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.*
 - *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.*
 - *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.*
3. Other light producing entities besides the sun, moon and stars has been utilized by God to manifest His power and presence such as fire. During their wilderness journey God guided His people by a pillar of fire which gave light to them in the darkness of night.
 - *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:*
 - *Nehemiah 9:19 Yet thou in thy manifold mercies forsookest them not in the wilderness: the pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day, to lead them in the way; neither the pillar of fire by night, to shew them light, and the way wherein they should go.*
4. In His sovereignty God constantly controls all light bearing producers reflected in the fact that light was given to the Hebrews while darkness was given to the Egyptians.

- *Exodus 14:19* And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them: 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.
5. In the construction of the wilderness Tabernacle oil was to be used to produce light in the Holy Place and Holies of Holies. The oil was to represent God the Holy Spirit.
 - *Exodus 25:1* And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering....6 Oil for the light, spices for anointing oil, and for sweet incense.
 - *Exodus 25:37* And thou shalt make the seven lamps thereof: and they shall light the lamps thereof, that they may give light over against it.
 6. The oil used in the Tabernacle was to burn continuously to speak of God's abiding presence with His people. When the Christian looks at the sun, moon and stars and other light bearing objects that burn continually it should be a reminder of the constant presence of God.
 - *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.
 - *Leviticus 24:2* Command the children of Israel, that they bring unto thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamps to burn continually.
 7. The oil that was to be used for burning in the Tabernacle was to be mixed with spices to produce a sweet smelling odor thereby reminding the church that the presence of God is sweet and precious and not to be feared.
 - *Exodus 35:8* And oil for the light, and spices for anointing oil, and for the sweet incense,
 8. The oil that was to be burned to produce light in the Tabernacle would flow through a large candlestick, a picture of Jesus Christ who, being filled with the Holy Spirit was the Light of the World.
 - *Exodus 35:14* The candlestick also for the light, and his furniture, and his lamps, with the oil for the light,
 9. In the *New Testament* expression of the church the candlestick represents the church in general and Christians in particular in whom the Holy Spirit dwells in order to burn and shine brightly like oil in the lives of believers.

- *Revelation 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks ; 13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.*
10. In the Tabernacle the candlestick, as the light bearing object, was to be set on the Table of Shewbread. The Table of Shewbread contained fresh bread which speaks of Christ the Bread of Life and the necessity of daily fellowship with Him. God has united the Table and the Candlestick. To quote the words of Christ to His disciples, “*without me ye can do nothing*” (*John 15:5*).
- *Exodus 40:4 And thou shalt bring in the table, and set in order the things that are to be set in order upon it; and thou shalt bring in the candlestick, and light the lamps thereof.*
11. When a candlestick was not in use it was to be covered with a cloth of blue which speaks of royalty. Jesus Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords. During the days of His humiliation much of His essential glory was veiled yet He remained divine.
- *Numbers 4:9 And they shall take a cloth of blue, and cover the candlestick of the light, and his lamps, and his tongs, and his snuffdishes, and all the oil vessels thereof, wherewith they minister unto it:*
12. There is a third way the word “*light*” is used in *Scripture* and that is to speak of spiritual illumination of the heart and mind.
- *Daniel 2:22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.*
 - *Psalms 27:1 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?*

“I wandered so aimless, life filled with sin;
I wouldn't ask my dear Saviour in.
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night;
Praise the Lord, I saw the light!

I saw the light, I saw the light.
No more darkness; no more night.
Now I'm so happy no sorrow in sight.
Praise the Lord, I saw the light!

Just like a blind man I wandered alone,
Worries and fears I claimed for my own.
Then like the blind man that Jesus gave back his sight;
Praise the Lord, I saw the light!

For straight is the gate and narrow is the way.
 Now I have traded the wrong for the right;
 Praise the Lord, I saw the light!
 I saw the light, I saw the light.

No more darkness; no more night.
 Now I'm so happy no sorrow in sight.
 Praise the Lord, I saw the light!"

Hank Williams, 1948

13. It is possible to rebel against spiritual illumination.

- *Job 24:13 They are of those that rebel against the light; they know not the ways thereof, nor abide in the paths thereof.*
- *John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

14. A fourth way the word "light" is used is to speak of life itself.

- *Job 18:5 Yea, the light of the wicked shall be put out, and the spark of his fire shall not shine.*

15. A fifth way the word "light" is also used in *Scripture* to speak of the countenance or presence of God.

- *Psalms 4:6 There be many that say, Who will shew us any good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us.*
- *Psalms 89:15 Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance.*

16. By the presence or countenance of God, the gospel light of truth shines forth exposing the exceeding sinfulness of sin.

- *Psalms 90:8 Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.*

17. A sixth way the word "light" is used in *Scripture* is in reference to the *Bible*.

- *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.*

- *Proverbs 6:23 For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:*
18. Those who study the *Bible* and honor its commandments will be walking in gospel light. What happens when individuals walk in the light of righteousness?
- There will be rejoicing. *Proverbs 13:9 The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.*
 - There will be better physical health. *Proverbs 15:30 The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart: and a good report maketh the bones fat.*
 - There will be mental exaltation. *Ecclesiastes 2:13 Then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness.*
 - There will be a sweetness to life. *Ecclesiastes 11:7 Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun: Isaiah 2:5 O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD.*
19. There is a fearful judgment that shall fall upon those who quench moral, spiritual and mental light, which is true truth.
- *Isaiah 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*
20. When spiritual light is rebelled against by the rejection of *Bible* doctrine, there is no truth that can prevail.
- *Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*
21. In matchless and marvelous grace God will give light to those who have been walking in darkness.
- *Isaiah 9:2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.*
22. When the Holy Spirit comes to a people He can purify them in one day.
- *Isaiah 10:17 And the light of Israel shall be for a fire, and his Holy One for a flame: and it shall burn and devour his thorns and his briers in one day;*

“O spread the tidings ’round, wherever man is found,
Wherever human hearts and human woes abound;
Let ev’ry Christian tongue proclaim the joyful sound:
The Comforter has come!

The Comforter has come, the Comforter has come!
 The Holy Ghost from Heav'n, the Father's promise giv'n;
 O spread the tidings 'round, wherever man is found—
 The Comforter has come!

The long, long night is past, the morning breaks at last,
 And hushed the dreadful wail and fury of the blast,
 As o'er the golden hills the day advances fast!
 The Comforter has come!

Lo, the great King of kings, with healing in His wings,
 To ev'ry captive soul a full deliverance brings;
 And through the vacant cells the song of triumph rings;
 The Comforter has come!

O boundless love divine! How shall this tongue of mine
 To wond'ring mortals tell the matchless grace divine—
 That I, a child of hell, should in His image shine!
 The Comforter has come!”

Frank Bottome, 1890

23. It is the sovereignty of God which controls all sources of light, both spiritual and physical. What are often called natural laws is nothing more than God's faithfulness in the operation of His universe. However, the natural laws can be suspended, and from time to time they are.
- God's Physical Control of the Universe. *Isaiah 13:10 For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. Matthew 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:*
 - God's Spiritual control. *Isaiah 42:6 I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; Isaiah 42:16 And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them. Isaiah 45:7 I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things. Isaiah 51:4 Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people.*
24. Astonishment should always be associated with those who walk in darkness and have no spiritual light.

- *Isaiah 50:10 Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.*
25. Christians are plainly declared to be the true light of the world. No Christian should ever feel inferior or intimidated by the world or the devil.
- *Matthew 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*
26. Because Christians are the light of the world, and give it moral and spiritual direction, there is to be a vital testimony to Christ.
- *Matthew 5:15 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.*
27. The purpose for being a vital witness of the gospel truth is that others might come to know the Father.
- *Matthew 5: 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*
27. The way in which light enters the body is through the eye. Therefore, spiritual eyes are to be guarded and focused on the intake of Bible doctrine.
- *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.*
28. If the eyes be evil, if time and energy is given over to evil, then the whole body will become polluted and full of spiritual darkness.
- *Matthew 6:23 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!*
29. It is the will of the Lord that the gospel be boldly proclaimed.
- *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.*
30. Much attention is given to Jesus being the Light of the world.
- *John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*
 - *John 1:5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*
 - *John 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.*

- *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.*
 - *John 12:36 While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.*
 - *John 12:46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.*
31. As individuals need physical light, so people need spiritual light as well. In grace God has appointed members of the church “to turn them from darkness to light”.
- *Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.*
32. Every Christian is to put on a spiritual protective armour of light. What is this armour of light? The truth of the gospel.
- *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.*
33. Satan is actively working to blind the minds of individuals from receiving the glorious gospel of Christ which has intrinsic healing power so that the blind can see again and be converted.
- *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.*
 - *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.*
34. One way Christians can violate their conscience is to be unequally yoked with unbelievers.
- *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?*
35. Satan has the ability to deceive the unwise and undiscerning, and deceive he will.
- *2 Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*

36. Once a person is born again into the kingdom of God and sees the light of the glorious gospel there is a holy responsibility to walk in the light or walk in the sphere of true truth.

- *Ephesians 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:*
- *Ephesians 5:14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.*

37. There is a physical light with which God is clothed and which no person can draw near to.

- *1 Timothy 6:16 Who only hath immortality, 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.*

37. There is the light of the person of Christ to which any person can draw near to.

- *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:*

38. In God there is no moral 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.*

39. When the Christian walks in moral and spiritual truth and light there is a sweet fellowship with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

- *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.*

40. A professing Christian can know if he is in the light by the attitude he harbors in his heart towards other Christians.

- *1 John 2:9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.*
- *1 John 2:10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.*

41. One day the laws of nature will change. Physical light will be dispensed in such a way that it will not harm the earth or those who dwell on it –if indeed there is physical light in the future.

- *Revelation 7:16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.*
- *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 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.*