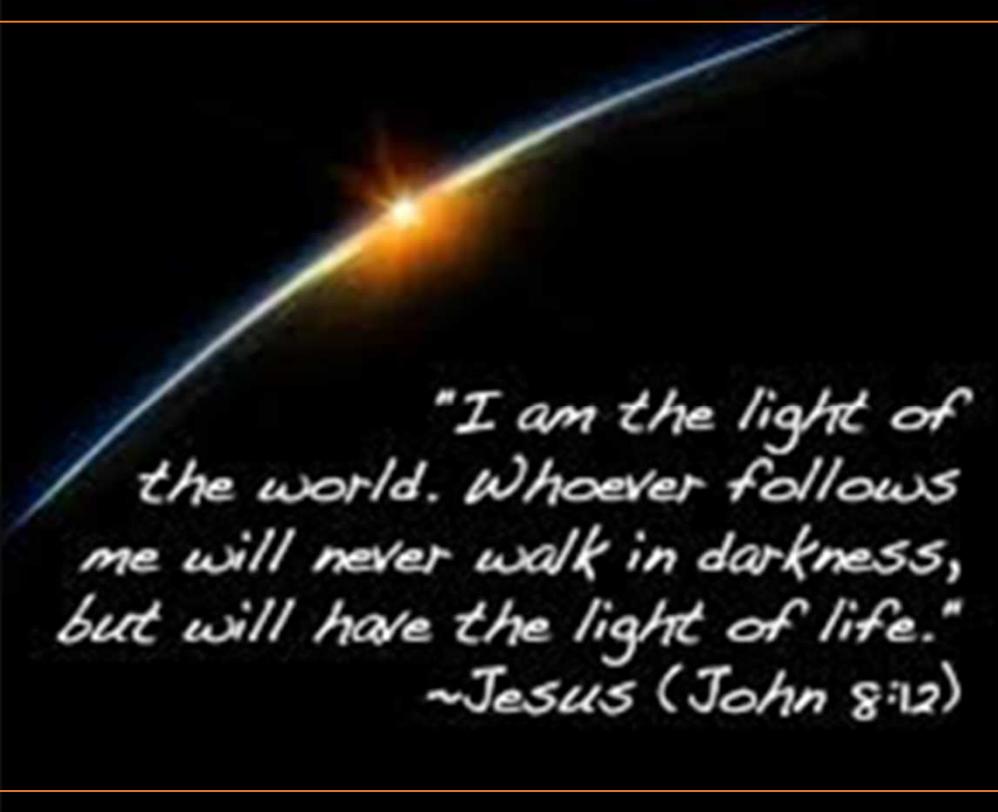


Walking In The Light

Acts 1:6-11



*"I am the light of
the world. Whoever follows
me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life."
~Jesus (John 8:12)*

We live in a dark, cold, hurtful, uncaring world full of anxiety, fear and hopelessness, with seemingly short periods of peace

- Would you agree with that statement?
- Does this describe your own life?
 - We hide it well, but most would have to agree
- So how can we move our lives to more and longer periods of peace?

Genesis 1:1-2 NIV In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

- In the beginning was God
- Being God He created the heavens and earth
 - Formless means desolated, worthless, confusion, empty, chaotic
 - Think of the moon or Mars

Genesis 1:3 NIV And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

- The first recorded word of God was to bring light to this dark, chaotic planet we call Earth
- Then God began to create order or good out of the chaotic mess, but it began with light or truth
- Light in the Bible stands for spiritual illumination and truth. It encompasses all that is pure, good, and holy, as opposed to the darkness of evil.

Genesis 1:3 NIV And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

- God’s Word is “a lamp for my feet and a light for my path” (**Ps 119:105**)
- **Isaiah 2:5 NIV** Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.
 - Today - Come Christians, let us live daily in the light/truth the Lord has provided.

In **Matthew 16** Jesus asked His disciples the question, “Who do people say I am?”

- 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”
 - Influence like John the Baptist, Miracles like Elijah and Caring like Jeremiah

In **Matthew 16** Jesus asked His disciples the question, “Who do people say I am?”

- 15 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”
 - 16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah (Christ), the Son of the living God.”

In **Matthew 16** Jesus asked His disciples the question, “Who do people say I am?”

- 17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hell will not overcome it.
 - Rejoice disciples because God has given you light/understanding that is outside or beyond of your natural ability

Matthew 16:22-23 NLT 22 But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. “Heaven forbid, Lord,” he said. “This will never happen to you!”
23 Jesus turned to Peter and said, “Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s.”

- What happened to Peter?
 - He did not live in the light that God had provided about Jesus

We live in a dark, cold, hurtful, uncaring world full of anxiety, fear and hopelessness, with seemingly short periods of peace

- So how can we move our lives to more and longer periods of peace?
- **John 1:4-5 NLT** 4 The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

We live in a dark, cold, hurtful, uncaring world full of anxiety, fear and hopelessness, with seemingly short periods of peace

- The questions this morning is, “How can I live above of the darkness? How can I live in the light Jesus has given me? How can I find peace in the middle of my darkness?”
 - The answer is living in the light of Jesus’ ascension

Acts 1:6-11 NIV

- 6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:6-11 NIV

- 9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

So often the church stays at the cross and the tomb

- We understand to some degree the cross of Jesus Christ
 - Some Christians never experience the joy of the resurrection because they are stuck at the cross and tomb
 - They cannot forgive themselves even though God has forgiven them

So often the church stays at the cross and the tomb

- Others quickly go past the cross and tomb straight to the resurrection
 - The church today does not want to talk about sin but loves to talk about grace and mercy
- But you really can't begin to grasp grace and mercy without the why, which is sin

So often the church stays at the cross and the tomb

- You really can't grasp the wonder of the resurrection without the tragedy of the cross and tomb
- We rarely stop at the ascension of Jesus and ask, "What light is God showing us here? Why is this scene important? How can it encourage me now?"

The ascended Lord Jesus continues his work

- **John 6:38 NIV** For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.
- I have come from heaven to do a mighty work here in creation
- Yes, to provide a redemption for mankind is a major part of that work but not the only part

The ascended Lord Jesus continues his work

- He came to shine light on His Heavenly Father
 - **John 14:9 NLT** Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you?”

The ascended Lord Jesus continues his work

- He came to seek and save the lost, struggling, hurt, weak, wounded, outcast, bitter, fearful, hopeless
 - **Luke 19:10 NIV** For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”
 - Lost in sin yes, but there is a lostness to those struggling, hurting, wounded, outcast, bitter, fearful, hopeless

The ascended Lord Jesus continues his work

- **Acts 1:1 NLT** In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus ***began to do*** and teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit.
- The small but important word began signals Jesus's ascension does not mark the end of His ministry on earth, but rather a continuation of the same

The ascended Lord Jesus continues his work

- That's what the book of Acts is all about, the "Acts of the risen Lord Jesus"
 - He works from heaven today, through His people, by the Holy Spirit, for the accomplishment of God's purposes
 - To seek, save, accept, empower the lost, struggling, hurt, weak, wounded, outcast, bitter, fearful, hopeless, sinner

The ascended Lord Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to His people

- **John 14:15-17 NIV** 15 “If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

The ascended Lord Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to His people

- Advocate – to the side of, to comfort, to encourage, to strengthen, to lead to truth
 - Another of equal value
 - He undertakes Christ's office in the world while Christ is away from the world

The ascended Lord Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to His people

- **Acts 2:32-33 NIV** 32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. 33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.
- Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to transform believers to live new lives reflecting their king

The ascended Lord Jesus is our now our heavenly mediator and high priest

- **Acts 7:55-56 NIV** 55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”
- This text suggest that Jesus’ ascension fulfills the important prophecy of Daniel

The ascended Lord Jesus is our now our heavenly mediator and high priest

- **Daniel 7:13-14 NIV** 13 “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

The ascended Lord Jesus is our now our heavenly mediator and high priest

- Jesus is our mediator and great High Priest before a holy and just God and the slanders in heaven
 - **1st Timothy 2:5 NIV** For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus
 - Mediator – One who unites divided parties, one who mediates peace

The ascended Lord Jesus is our now our heavenly mediator and high priest

- **Hebrews 4:14-16 NIV** 14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

The ascended Lord Jesus is our now our heavenly mediator and high priest

- **Hebrews 4:14-16 NIV** 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
 - High Priest – Offered gifts and sacrifices to God, Entered the Holy of Holies, Interceded for his people

The ascended Lord Jesus is our now our heavenly mediator and high priest

- The devil is bringing up charges or accusations against us by assaulting our minds with doubt, like he did Jesus, "If you're the son of God ..."

The ascended Lord Jesus is our now our heavenly mediator and high priest

- During His earthly ministry Jesus' work was geographically limited
 - He didn't teach in Ethiopia or heal in China
 - But now He is at work everywhere and able to hear and respond to his people's prayer no matter the time or place

The ascended Lord Jesus will return as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords

- The two angels explain to the disciples, “This same Jesus who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven.”

The ascended Lord Jesus will return as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords

- Jesus said himself in John
- **John 14:1-3 NIV** “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

The ascended Lord Jesus will return as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords

- Jesus' heavenly reign will one day be fully realized on earth
- **Revelation 19:11-16 NIV** 11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war.

The ascended Lord Jesus will return as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords

- **Revelation 19:11-16 NIV** 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

The ascended Lord Jesus will return as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords

- **Revelation 19:11-16 NIV** 15 Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:
 - King of kings and Lord of lords.

Four things I want you to remember about Jesus' ascension

- Remember that Jesus is presently reigning as king and remains active and engaged in our world and our lives.
- Live boldly, confidently and with a long view as servants of the exalted King of Heaven.

Four things I want you to remember about Jesus' ascension

- Suffers, take heart that Jesus is not indifferent to your struggles. He has endured great suffering and is thus the most merciful and sympathetic councilor and mediator.

Four things I want you to remember about Jesus' ascension

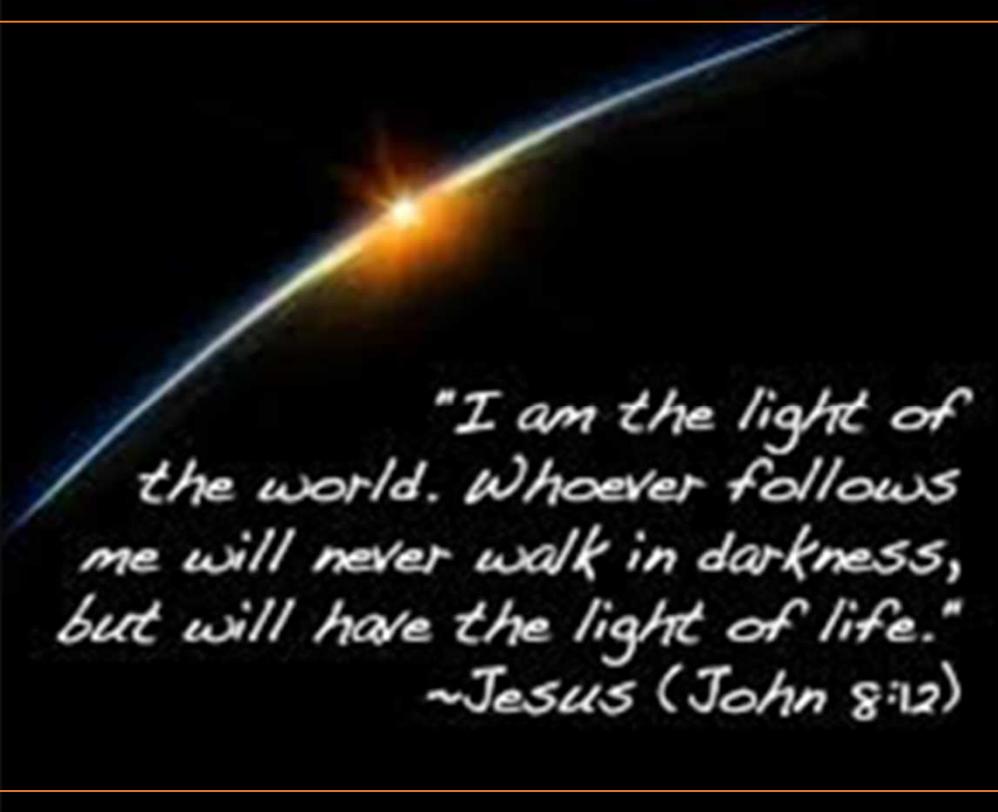
- Hope in a glorious future. The ascended Lord will return as judge and king. He will abolish injustice, end suffering and destroy death and set up his Kingdom of truth, righteousness and love. Best of all, we will be with our King forever.

Four things I want you to remember about Jesus' ascension

- **Luke 24:50-52 NIV** 50 When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. 51 While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. 52 Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

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