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Walking in the Light

***Like a lamp unto your feet,
A light from heaven glows,
From the land which needs no sun or moon,
Nor ever darkness knows,
And radiant with a living splendor,
Makes the way so bright,
You can walk, safely walk,
On the upward path of right.***

***Like a lamp unto your feet,
The holy light beams shine,
With the brightness of a cloudless sun,
A glory all divine;
Tho you must go 'mong bri'rs and brambles,
Nothing shall you fear,
Ever walk, safely walk,
In the light so white and clear.***

***Like a lamp unto your feet,
The light makes plain the way,
Turning not aside where shadows linger,
Lest afar you stray;
Keep in the path, tho it is stony,
Never need you fall,
Ever walk, safely walk,
In the light that shines for all.***

***Chorus:
O walk, walk, walk in the light of God;
In the light the perfect light,
Making plain the path of right,
Walk in faith, walk in trust
Up the slope where saints have trod;
Keep the narrow way,
Leading on to endless day,
Walk in hope, walk in peace,
In the perfect light of God.***

***James Rowe, 1911
Samuel W. Beazley, 1911***



LIGHT IS POWERFUL

Light is powerful.

The lengthening daily light in the spring gradually warms the earth and coaxes apparently dead stubs of plants into lush, green growth. When the complete darkness of a bedroom at night feels frightening and even suffocating to a child, the tiniest glimmer of light down the hallway is all it takes to provide calm. And if "the light isn't right," a serious photographer just can't be bothered.

Light symbolizes life, knowledge, wisdom, nobility, and purity. It is inherent in the concepts of enlightenment and illumination. We even measure distance in outer space by the time it would take light to travel through and brighten its dark reaches.

This concept of the significance of light is obvious to everyone, whether a believer or not. But the concept originates with God, the One Who first said the words, "Let there be light," and it was so. Light was the beginning of creation, the beginning of God's revelation of Himself. Thus, the Bible describes the Presence of God as light in our lives:

Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord. Psalm 4:6

Light dawns in the darkness for the upright. Psalm 112:4

... for the Lord will be your everlasting light ... Isaiah 60:20

And if God's Presence is light, it is through the Scriptures, His Word, that we come to know about Him and come into that light. Just as we develop a relationship with another person by listening to that person, learning his story, and understanding what is important to him, we come to know God by listening to Him, learning what He has done throughout history in people's lives, and understanding and caring about those matters that are of importance to Him:

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Psalm 119:105*

The unfolding of your words gives light. Psalm 119:130

Looking into the future, the book of Revelation describes an eternal city, prepared for those who have put their faith in Him, a city where God is the Light:

And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. Revelation 22:5

In fact, these words provide the explanation for the words of the old gospel song, "Where the Gates Swing Outward Never."

*I'll exchange my cross for a starry crown,
Where the gates swing outward never;
At His feet I'll lay every burden down,
And with Jesus reign forever.*

In ancient times, during the daylight hours the gates of a walled city would be opened, that is swung inward, so that visitors could enter and do business. But at night, the gates would be shut, or swung outward into the closed position, for protection. Charles H. Gabriel, the songwriter, explained that although the song does not mention the word "light," it is based upon Revelation 22:5 where God is the light so there is no night and, therefore, no need to ever close the gates.

Until that day when we see the Light of God's Presence face to face, never has the glory of God's Presence shone more brightly than in the face of Jesus. In fact, over and over, the apostle John described Jesus as light:

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:4,5

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. John 1:9

Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8:12

But then there is one more thought about light that we would do well to take to heart. One day on a mountainside in Galilee, Jesus said these words to the people assembled there – and to us (fallible, fearful, and flawed us):

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light

shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16

Yes, light is powerful.

Ina McKune, Rolla, MO

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LET THERE BE LIGHT...

I don't know about you, but I do not look forward to winter. Not only is it too cold to go outdoors, but it's just a dreary time of year. I find myself getting depressed and sad during this time of year. A few years ago, I found there was a name for this feeling I get in the winter – Seasonal Affective Disorder. My mood is affected by the lack of sunshine. It is really hard to get up in the mornings and think about going to work when it so dark outside. When my work day is finished, it is dark again when I'm ready to go home. I really look forward to the spring when the sunshine returns and the world enjoys the beautiful warm light.

There are times in my spiritual life when I feel depressed. I get down on myself and feel like I'm not doing enough for the Lord. My prayer life feels like it stops at my bedroom ceiling. I don't want to get up and try to do things because I just don't feel good about my life and feel very unfulfilled.

If I stop and seriously take a look at why I'm feeling these things, it's because I don't have enough Sonlight in my life. I'm too busy looking at me and not enough time soaking in the Son. I have found if I quit worrying so much about me and look around to help others, my spirits are soon lifted. I turn to the Gospels and spend time reading what Jesus said and did when He was among His followers.

Listening to the news and seeing what is becoming of our nation could really get me depressed. What I long for is the coming of the Sonlight. Can you imagine how beautiful it will be to be in the presence and glory of the Son for eternity?

Lorna Smith, Lubbock, TX

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