

CHAPTER 11

TAKE HEED LEST YOUR LIGHT

..." For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, Who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. For he delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the Kingdom of His beloved Son, in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. And He is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things have been created by Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in him all things hold together"....

Colossians 1:9-17

..." In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend (overpower) it. There came a man, sent from God, whose name was John. He came for a witness, that he might bear witness of the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came that he might bear witness of the light. There was the true light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him, but as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth"....

John 1:1-14

...."For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; He who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God"....

John 3:16-21

"DIVINE LIGHT"

As the child of God continues on in their earthly walk, both meditating on and studying the Word of God, they will experience an ever deeper revelation of "divine light". Light is first mentioned in Genesis 1:3 when God spoke and said, "Let there be light" or "light be!". From this early beginning in God's Word we are able to establish clearly the fact that light is part of the predominant force (God) which rules this universe.

In 1 John 1:5 the Word of God states that:

....God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all"....

1 Peter 2:9 states:

...."but you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a Holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him Who has called you out of darkness into His marvellous light".....

Colossians 1:12 states:

that we are qualified "to share in the inheritance of the saints in light".

Ephesians 5:7-13 states:

..."For you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth, trying (proving) what is pleasing to the Lord. And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them.....All things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light"....

We, as children of the most high God, are called to walk in the light - as He Himself is in the light - that we might have fellowship with one another, knowing that the blood of Jesus continually cleanses us from all sin. As we seek the Father and His Word "whole-heartedly" - day in and day out - we shall have developed within us a deep desire to have the Holy Spirit (who is the Spirit of wisdom and revelation) shine His light into our heart of hearts - exposing and driving out the darkness of our own human understanding and filling us with godly Wisdom and Knowledge (1 Corinthians 1:30). Diligence in this matter causes one to stand holy and blameless before the Father in all that they do, and empowers them to rise above any bondage to a sin-consciousness - thus allowing them to walk in the fulness of their wondrous inheritance in Christ Jesus. It is only in this place that we shall come to base our lives on the Word of God - and who it says we are in Christ - as opposed to mentally ascending to the Word of God and living lives based on "our" feelings, and who we "think" we are in Christ.

THOSE WHO YIELD TO THE FATHER'S LOVING INSTRUCTION SHALL HAVE MANIFESTED IN THEIR LIVES, THE PEACEFUL FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

A vast majority of believers still adhere to their five physical senses as the final authority in their lives and this is a practice which must - and shall - end in the church! As we seek to walk as children of light, all which is a product of darkness shall be exposed and driven out by the light of the consuming fire of the Holy Spirit. We must NEVER fear the Holy Spirit and His convicting power, but rather welcome His presence in our hearts - for He has been sent to teach us and to draw us ever nearer to the Father and His Word. As we yield to His gentle voice we shall surely grow in Christ. Many believers, because of the hardness of their hearts, continue to move away from the Father and His Word - having continually

"maintained" the desire to follow after their own agendas and interests, and because of this, darkness "pervades" their consciousness. When the Word of God enters (having been "allowed" in), bringing with it the light of God (Psalm 119:130), the child who has resisted the loving call of their Father will be "chastened" (instructed, reprovved) (Hebrews 12:11), and while it may initially seem harsh, in reality, it is always for their "greatest good" so that they might share His Holiness. Those who yield to the Father's loving instruction shall have manifested in their lives, the peaceful fruit of righteousness, that is to say, they will come into perfect conformity to the will of the Father in purpose, thought and deed (action), resulting in right living and right-standing at all times, having been transformed by the renewing of their minds, washed by the water of the Word of God. It is with this goal in mind that we pursue peace with all men and holiness without which no one will see the Lord in us. We are the light of the world and are to prove ourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God, above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation among whom we appear as lights.

WE SHALL BE - AS THE GLORIOUS CHURCH - A STRONG AND BRIGHT LIGHT TO A DYING WORLD IN THIS LAST OF THE LAST HOUR

In John 8:12 Jesus said:

...."I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life"....

In John 9:5 Jesus said:

...."While I am in the world, I am the light of the world"....

We, as the Body of Christ, have been handed the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-20), and are God's representatives in the earth. We, literally, are the light of this world - an evil and darkened world that has no way to the Truth other than through us. It is precisely for this reason that we are to be a cleansed and pure vessel of the love, life and light of God in order that we might appear as lights amidst a crooked and perverse generation - for through us many will come to see the "living Christ". Without the presence of the Body of

Christ in the earth, darkness would continue to prevail over the hearts of men to a continually greater degree, but as we are prepared and sanctified for the Master's use, and as we empty ourselves and are filled and consumed by the mighty Spirit of God, we shall be - as the Glorious Church - a strong and bright light to a dying world in this last of the last hour. How important it is for EVERY believer to lay aside any hindrance to their relationship (fellowship) with the Lord Jesus Christ. All those who truly love God must continually cast aside any element of sin in their lives - the sin that has kept them from running the true race set before them and made their light "dim". As the child of God keeps their eyes fixed on Jesus they will no longer view things or circumstances around them through fleshly eyes, but rather they shall come to view all things in the light of the Word of God.

ONE MUST COME TO REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF A PROPER SPIRITUAL DIET!

The child of God will never be able to realize in their heart the "fulness" of what we corporately, as the Body of Christ, are called to as long as their own self-interest and preservation are first and foremost in their eyes. If one continues to put themselves first in ANY area of their lives THEN they shall be blinded by the darkness which they themselves have sown to - due to their continued desire to lean upon their own darkened understanding as they pursue their own agendas. As the child of God puts the Word first - and their mind is thus continually renewed and washed by that Word - light will enter into their heart, flooding their entire being. One must come to realize the extreme importance of a proper spiritual diet! As the Word of God is assimilated daily into the believer's spirit, life and light and love shall begin to flow forth from their innermost being (John 7:38) upon all flesh. But if the child of God feeds on the things of this world (anything outside the Word of God) they shall assimilate fear, worry, greed and unbelief, causing their light to be all but extinguished (quenched). It is for this reason that the Evil One schemes to lead the believer into any form of heart-fellowship with the world - for it "enables" him to keep the carnal-minded believer out of fellowship with God, thus neutralizing their spiritual effectiveness in the earth. It is only from the place of diligence and obedience that the child of God can do him harm. This "neutralization" of the carnal Christian "allows" the Evil One, with his insidious lies, to present a dark and distorted image of the Lord Jesus Christ to the world, continually verifying their need to remain conformed to its darkened ways. In this plan then, Satan is able to keep vast multitudes in bondage to a spirit of fear -

encased totally in the darkness of human understanding, without hope and without God. As we, in the Body of Christ, take our true position as the light of this world and begin to exercise the authority we have been given in Christ Jesus, THEN the darkness of this world will be driven out before us, and as the anointed Word goes forth amongst the peoples of this earth, the captives shall be set free and the yoke of bondage shall be broken in the lives of millions!

IN MANY CASES WE HAVE NOT BORNE THE GREAT RESPONSIBILITY WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN "IN CHRIST"!

Every child of God must come to the realization of what is caused by their "failure" to love the Lord their God with all their heart. Those who, by their own selfish desire, continue on in carnality, despite the fact that souls are perishing in this earth, shall reap just as they have sown. How abominable it is for any child of God to remain "ensconced" in sin while countless numbers perish before their eyes when, in reality, they themselves have been freed from the power of it. It is no wonder that this judgment must begin with the household of God (1 Peter 4:17), for in many cases we have not borne the great responsibility we have been given "in Christ"! As each believer repents before the Father, and consecrates themselves wholly unto His Word, a great light shall begin to shine forth in the earth and many shall then awaken to the glorious Salvation which has been provided for them by the shed Blood of the Lamb (Matthew 5:14-16, Luke 8:16-18).

IF ONE SEEKS THE THINGS OF GOD THEY WILL BE ENLIGHTENED AND RENEWED

In Proverbs 4:18-19 the Word of God states:

...."the path of the righteous is like the light of the dawn, that shines brighter and brighter until the full day. The way of the wicked is like darkness, they do not know over what they stumble"....

In this passage we have the perfect analogy between those who are seeking the Lord and those who seek to lean on their own understanding in pursuit of their own selfish desires. One spirals towards an ever-increasing light deep in their heart, and the other towards an ever-increasing darkness - a darkness that

consumes the soul. In Matthew 7:7 it is written, "seek and you shall find". This is a spiritual law and means that whatsoever a person seeks (in the thoughts and intentions of their heart) they shall find. If one seeks the things of God they will be enlightened and renewed, and if one pursues the things of this world they will be darkened in their hearts - causing them to stumble in confusion. We are the only ones that decide which path we take in all that we do and we will indeed reap just as we have sown and we shall indeed find that which we have sought. How important it is for all those who call themselves "Christians" to seek wholeheartedly the wisdom of God - for in seeking they shall surely find and, in finding, they will discard any desire to walk in the darkness of human understanding - a darkness which leads only to spiritual death (separation from God). In their forsaking of all self-desire they shall step into His marvellous light and begin to fellowship intimately with the One Who died for them because He loved them.

DARKNESS OR LIGHT - OUR CHOICE!

In Proverbs 20:27 it is written:

...."the spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the innermost parts of his being"....

From this scripture one can see clearly the need for strengthening our spirit man. As one continually feeds on the Word of God the necessary light shall enter. When we continually strengthen our spirit man it THEN takes its proper position over the soul (mind, will and emotions) and the body - and thus keeps our entire being in a constant state of right fellowship with the Father and His Word.

It is for this reason that the Spirit of God tells us in Proverbs 4:20-23:

...."My Son give attention to My words; incline your ear to My sayings. Do not let them depart from your sight; keep them in the midst of your heart (spirit) for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their whole body. Watch over your heart (spirit) with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life"....

As the child of God tends to the feeding and maintaining of their spirit man they shall begin to experience the "Zoe" - or absolute life of God - and this life and light shall flow forth from their innermost being upon all those who cross their

path. It is in this way that we are able to breathe life into a dying world and light into a darkened soul. In giving our hearts wholly to the One we serve we shall go forth ministering the Word of Life from the abundance of our hearts and the love and power of God shall be manifested greatly in the earth.

In Luke 11:34 (KJV) the Word of God states:

..."the light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body is full of light, but when thine eye is evil, thy body is also full of darkness. If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light"....

From this scripture we once again see clearly the importance of being "single-minded" towards the things of God, always keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and developer of our faith. As we continually feed upon God's Word our entire being (spirit, soul and body) shall be bathed with God's light, but on the other hand when one allows themselves to be captivated by the Evil One - having been lured by the spirit of the world - then in the same way they shall be filled with darkness and be enshrouded by a cloud of confusion concerning the Truth.

THERE IS EXTREME DANGER AWAITING THE CHILD OF GOD, WHO, BY THEIR OWN CHOICE HARDENS THEIR HEART TOWARDS GOD!

In verse 35 Jesus states:

..."take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness"....

One needs to realize that there are two definitions for every term. One: the defining of it through the Word of God and two, its reciprocal definition discerned through the eyes of the world in its darkened understanding - the latter being Satan's perversion of the Father's intention (ie. love-hate, faith-fear, life-death etc.). In this case we hear Jesus caution us to "not let the light we have in us be darkness". As we have discussed earlier the believer will always be feeding on one of two things: the wisdom of God (the Word of God) or the wisdom of this world

(human understanding). As we feed on the Word of God the entrance of that Word brings forth Light (God's) (Psalm 119:130). On the other hand as one feeds, to any degree, on the wisdom of this world they will sow the seeds of darkness and death which will prevent them from comprehending the Word of God, and ultimately lead them into a place where they shall become "strangers" to the covenants of promise - without God and without hope in this world. There is extreme danger awaiting the child of God, who, by their own choice hardens their heart towards God. For the Evil One seeks to lure the unsuspecting believer out from under their covenant with God into the world in order to kill, steal from, or destroy them. Perhaps the best way to summarize this command to "take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness" is through a vision given to a sister in Christ concerning this very thing. She saw a man preaching from the pulpit and from him flowed light as he spoke, but in the light coming out there were various sizes of black dots or blotches. Those black dots hindered the flow of light to the degree of their size - thus causing a ray-like effect as the light was flowing forth. The Lord revealed to her that these black dots were representative of how the traditions of men - and ANY form of mental ascension (that is, the discernment of God's Word by means of human understanding) which is allowed to remain in the believer will hinder greatly the flow of God's Life, Love and Light from them because of their unrenewed mind - which remains darkened by human understanding. It is only the Word of God, as revealed by the Holy Spirit, Who can overcome this darkness. As one is faithful in diligently seeking the wisdom of God then all of the darkness within shall be removed, and they shall become "pure and clean" vessels prepared unto every good work.

HOW SERIOUS AND NECESSARY A THING IT IS TO CONSTANTLY CHOOSE - IN ALL THINGS - THE WISDOM OF GOD!

In Matthew 6:22-23 the Word of God states:

...."the lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light which is in you is darkness how great is the darkness!"....

How serious and necessary a thing it is for us to constantly choose - in ALL things - the wisdom of God, in order that we might "allow" the Holy Spirit to teach

us and to guide us into all Truth. The child of God MUST learn to destroy speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge (Word) of God, and bring every thought captive to that Word - for in doing this all darkness will be driven out by the entrance of the Word of Truth. From this place of diligence their mind, in being renewed daily, will be found devoid of worldly or human understanding. It is for this reason that we must obey the command to NOT "conform" or "fellowship" with the world and its ways (James 4:4, Romans 12:1-2). Again, this is in order that we might facilitate this "renewing process" in our walks and that we might draw ever nearer to our Heavenly Father - to understand His ways and His goodness. Should this not be the "one desire" of every believer? It is time to put aside all of our foolishness and hearken to the commandment to love the Lord our God with our whole heart (Luke 10:27).

WE SHALL SEE A GREAT LIGHT BEGIN TO ARISE IN THE PLACES WHICH WERE ONCE INHABITED BY DARKNESS

In Psalm 97:11 (Amplified Translation) the Word of God states:

..."Light is sown for the uncompromisingly righteous and strewn along their pathway and for the upright in heart, the irrepressible joy which comes from consciousness of His favour and protection"....

Psalm 119:105 states:

..."Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path"....

Psalm 112:4 states:

..."Light arises in the darkness for the upright"....

In many areas the church seems encased in darkness, but as more and more believers consecrate themselves "entirely" to a life of dedication and devotion to the Father and His Word, we shall see a great light begin to arise in the places which were once inhabited by darkness - and before the Church is "caught away" those who are faithful and obedient shall be found walking in the fulness of their calling to be "lights" in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation (Philippians 2:15)! Although we were formerly engaged in deeds of darkness we

must come to realize fully that we are now vessels of light in Christ and, thus, we must walk and talk as children of light - for the fruit of the light consists in ALL goodness and righteousness and truth, and this encompasses the totality of the true Christian walk. We have no need to participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but rather, as we proceed forth, strong in the Lord, the light which flows from us shall drive out darkness at every turn, and lift those who are in bondage to the Evil One, above the darkness of this evil world. We must not for one moment forget who we are in Christ Jesus, and we must not forget what we have been called to do in this earth (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-20, 1 John 3:8), for the hour is late and the coming of our Lord draws near. Come Lord Jesus!

Amen