

“The Brilliance of God’s Presence”

Whether in the natural or spiritual realm, light always dispels darkness. I’m sure you’ll agree that walking in the light is much easier than walking without it and being led by the light of the Holy Spirit is far better than stumbling around in the shadow of spiritual darkness. Unfortunately, many of us experience obscurity rather than brilliance and, for reasons explained later in this ministry, we don’t recognize the darkness until it’s too late. We desperately need God’s Divine brilliance to illuminate the absence of light if we are to experience any form of breakthrough. The question is, how can we identify and banish the Cimmerian cloud, which means a very dark or gloomy veil that often follows us like the fog that followed Pigpen, the Peanuts cartoon character?

In order to banish (expel) darkness, we first have to recognize that it exists. We should ask ourselves, “What is the veil of obscurity that follows us?” Of course, we know its Satan and his minions! Once we recognize the work of his hands, we can stand against it by partnering with the Lord, as He shines His radiant light upon it. Once this occurs, we will see the hopelessness that held us captive fade away, as we embrace the freedom God intended!

The fact is demonic darkness is the driving force behind our sicknesses, financial lack, family discord, anger, rejection, fears of all types, and religiosity, to name a few. Yet we look at these circumstances as something that we have to live with until the Lord corrects it, or worse, until we try to right it ourselves. As I said previously, the good news though is that the Lord wants to shine His radiant light upon every one of our dilemmas so He can heal and restore us for His glory; all we have to do is believe!

One aspect of light, from a Biblical perspective, is that it is connected with miracles executed by the Lord (Light is also associated with the Presence of the Lord, His revelation truth and His redemptive process, to name a few).

Let’s look at several miracles recorded in the Bible that included light:

1. The “Pillar of fire” that illuminated the way for the Israelites in the wilderness (Exodus 3:21).
2. The ninth plague God told Moses to execute prior to Israel’s Exodus, that caused total darkness to come upon the Egyptians, while light shone on the Israelites (Exodus 10: 21-23).
3. Moses’ burning bush experience (Exodus 3:1-8).
4. The “brightness of Christ’s face and cloths” at the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17: 1-13).
5. The event that occurred at the point of Apostle Paul’s “conversion to Christianity” (Acts 9: 1-19) and the list goes on and on.

In each case, the miraculous illumination of God's Presence touched the lives of those involved, changing them forevermore.

Jesus is the personification of light or Divine illumination.

John 8:12 says, "*I (Jesus) am the light of the world...*" and also, the Lord plainly stated that those who rejected this Divine light would bring judgment upon themselves (John 3:19-21). In our sinful state, we were comfortable functioning in a dark environment. As a result, when the illuminating light from God came to us, calling us to Him, we would reject His voice and continue to pursue the darkness. Therefore, we may have built structures that partner with darkness that we continue to deal with in our Christian walk to this day (in our minds). The ministry of the Holy Spirit, through the Divine illumination of Jesus Christ, can break the stronghold of this diversion and open a way for the restoring power of the Lord's brilliance to change our circumstances, if we allow it.

Please read Acts 9: 1-19.

In order to appreciate Saul's emotions at this time, it is necessary to remember that he was convinced that Jesus of Nazareth was dead and buried in a Judean grave. Since the leader of the sect had been destroyed, all that was necessary was to destroy the followers, and then the earth would be free of the scourge. However, with crushing force, Saul learns that Jesus is not dead at all, but that He has been raised from the dead and has been glorified at the right hand of the Father in Heaven! It was this sight of the glorified Saviour that changed the entire direction of his life. He was changed from a religious minded Pharisee into one of the greatest Apostles. It was this transformation that healed and restored Paul from a sinner to a saint, a despot into a child of light.

Ephesians 5:14 says, "*For it is light that makes everything visible...*" and Paul also says in I Timothy 6:16, "*God alone lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see.*"

**It is this glorious light that we must allow to come into our lives
if we are to receive healing, restoration, reconciliation,
redemption, encouragement and revelation.**

In reference to the miracles I mentioned earlier, a magnificent burst of God's glory shone around the faithful that literally changed their destiny. Even so, I sense that something is about to occur spiritually at Arise that will change our course. I am not saying that Arise is heading down a wrong path or that the Lord has to do something extreme to get our attention. A powerful paradigm shift is coming to our Church for the purposes of the End-Time and it is the fulfillment of what we have been praying for.

Some of the changes that I perceive God is shining His light upon corporately are:

- The Lord is removing the spirit of rejection and shame that many of us have struggled with for years.
- He's removing the religiosity that drives us, and the fear that keeps us from having an intimate relationship with Him, which produces performance.
- He is touching our independence that keeps us isolated and removing unbelief.
- The Lord is dealing with the core of disunity and causing the fear of relationship and vulnerability in friendship to be overcome.
- Jesus is healing the dysfunction that exists in the family unit and He is teaching us to relate with our families and one another in a spirit of love and synergy.
- He is causing us to view our Church in a different way. This house will be a place where the Lord dwells and many will come far and wide to be part of what God is doing here.
- We will unify with joy and peace to achieve the vision God has given us. Our Church and its function in the Body of Christ will clearly be identified and greatly used for End-time purposes.

Conclusion:

Activation

Write down on a piece of paper the areas of your lives that you know are influenced by darkness.

Prayer

Father, in the name of Jesus, I thank you for showing us the power of your might and the Glory of your presence. Even as you rule from Your Throne in the Heavenly realm we ask that You disperse the light that comes from Your Presence and touch our circumstances, changing them for ever more. Lord, we repent for our rebellion in not responding to your directives and we ask that you forgive us for our focus on self. From this day forth we commit to place at your feet, our lives, and we submit to your hand of mercy as we allow Your Heavenly brilliance to overtake us. Lord, we ask that Your radiant glory touch our bodies, families, spiritual life, financial situations, Church life, friendships, attitudes and minds. Father, we commit to allow the light of Your Glory to transition us into vessels of light and that the propensity to revert back to our old ways be completely dismantled!

Place piece of paper under your feet and declare, "It is finished," In Jesus' Name, Amen!

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