

First Light

It's natural to have a fear of the dark – or at least an apprehension. When we walk into an unfamiliar dark room, we immediately want to get to the light switch. As a little child, the dark means monsters and other scary things, but as an adult, it makes it hard to react. When we have no light, we feel we can't anticipate what is about to happen. We feel vulnerable, lost and unable to respond to a threat or problem. In the darkness, we can be confused and out of balance. Unless, of course, we know where we are.

Darkness loses some of its grip if we are in a familiar place. In our room in a familiar house, we can cut the lights and still have a sense of location. If you know where you are, you can move from step to step, place to place, room to room and not ever feel like you're lost. In fact, if you're really acquainted with a room, you can walk around with your eyes closed and never collide with anything. It's because you know where you are. Even in the dark, you have a sense of place in your mind.

When Jesus was facing the unbelief of many, John quotes Isaiah when he says, "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes nor understand with their heart, nor turn – and I would heal them." Then Jesus cried out, "Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. 45 The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. 46 I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." (John 12:37-46)

John uses "light" more than any other New Testament writer and in this passage, it is his last reference to it. He implies that Jesus is synonymous with light and is the answer to the disease of darkness. Jesus says we have a tendency to stumble without the "light" (John 11:10) and that when we veer off into the darkness, it is because we fail to have the light. If we stay in spiritual darkness, it is because we have chosen it over the spiritual light. Believing in Jesus is the same as knowing where you are, with eyes open or closed - we have the presence of light. He is the true Illuminator that we need so that we need not stay in the darkness. When you see Jesus, you see God. Our daily familiarity with Jesus allows us to have eternal acquaintance with his Father, so that by believing in his Son, we acknowledge that we know the Creator.

When our life is turning upside down and the darkness keeps pouring over our heart, we must close our eyes and step into the light. It is only in that Light that we know where we are. "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12