

Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.

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THE GLORY OF HIS LIGHT

by Becky Combee

When my father lived with us, I learned to walk through our house in the dark. I would have preferred a light, but he did not sleep soundly, and he always kept his bedroom door open. So, I would tiptoe past his door, navigating my way by the neighbor's yard light and the light of the moon. I always headed for our office where various machines had small red and green lights that gave some visibility.

I wanted to spend time talking to the Lord and meditating on His Word. After a very busy day, my heart longed for fellowship with God. But, in that season, it was only at night that I had time to feed my spirit and enjoy His presence. The psalmist writes that the entrance of God's Word gives light, and I knew that I needed the sustaining power of His light to keep from fainting. **There is no substitute for the light of God's Word.**¹

The Scripture commands us to walk as children of light.² This means that we must diligently study God's Word and live in obedience to its principles. But, the light of man's intellect does not sufficiently explain the Word of God. In fact, our mind often misleads us. We cannot depend on our understanding. Instead, we trust in the Lord.³ He illuminates our pathway and orders our steps. He teaches us and enables us to overcome every difficulty. We can conquer and succeed, even when it appears all is lost, if we heed the prompting of God's Spirit and obey His Word.

According to 3 John 1:2, it is the will of God that we prosper. We often interpret the word "prosper" to mean financial wealth and stability, but it is far greater than that. It encompasses every

GOD-LIGHT

by Suzanne D. Williams

*"This is the crisis we're in: **God-light** streamed into the world, but men and women everywhere ran for the darkness. They went for the darkness because they were not really interested in pleasing God. Everyone who makes a practice of doing evil, addicted to denial and illusion, **hates** God-light and won't come near it, fearing a painful **exposure**. But anyone working and living in truth and reality welcomes God-light so the work can be **seen** for the God-work it is." (Jn 3:19-21 MSG)*

Around 7 a.m. most days, the rising sun shines through my living room window. The shadow it casts at that moment is always riddled with dust. I can see every grain on each table and chair. The floor, the TV, the cabinets, and bookshelves are coated in it.

Sometimes, I'll get up and dust or sweep, but my most earnest actions merely move the dust from whatever I'm polishing and into the air. It swirls around me, just waiting for things to calm so it can land again. There really isn't any good way to get rid of it permanently, and in the end, I usually wait for the light to fade and hide the truth.

I do this in my personal life as well, keeping my bad habits or sinful actions tucked away while God's light is on. In the dark, I can pretend they don't exist. Or even if a sudden ray of spiritual light hits me, shined from one of my friends, a sermon I've heard, or the words of a worship tune, I simply turn my good side outward and shield the rest.

(Continued from "God-light")

*Create in me a **clean** heart, O God; and renew a **right** spirit within me. (Ps 51:10)*

I've prayed this Scripture for years, asking God for right motives in what I do. But be careful what you wish for, because I've found in my life, which is far from perfect, that the person most guilt-ridden when things go wrong is me. I watch as others sweep the moment under the rug, while I struggle to put that argument, bad habit, or incorrect behavior in its proper place. Whether it was mine personally or someone else's that's affecting me.

I'm not always successful and, along the way, have become a cynic. I watch the secular world sprint toward hell without a clue it exists, and I feel powerless to stop its downfall. Worse, I'm carried along on the wind of it. My good motives to overcome the thing I'm fighting seem fruitless amongst the criticisms of an offended age.

Or are they? What did Jesus say, recorded in the book of John? *"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have **peace**. In the world*

*ye shall have tribulation: but be of good **cheer**; I have overcome the world."* (Jn 16:33)

Victory over sin and the sway of a godless, secular society ... even stronger, having peace and cheer in its midst ... comes with constantly bathing in the God-light. I seek out a word from heaven and faithfully apply it to me. Rather than duck into the shadows until it passes by, **I face it and commit to change**. Change comes slowly. That's what Christians don't understand. It's walking every step, every day, in the light of Christ and allowing Him to alter our motives.

God is working in you to make you **willing** and **able** to obey him. (Php 2:13 CEV)

I look back and see how far I've come. This gives me hope for the future. And strength for today. God is with me, guiding me, even when I close my eyes, and I take courage in His presence. Because even when things are bad, whether in private or some public tragedy, at that minute, I know God's been there already. For my sake, He faced death and won. (Eph 5:8)

(Continued from "The Glory Of His Light")

endeavor of life. According to Strong's Exhaustive Concordance,⁴ it means to have a prosperous journey. The New Century Version of the Bible clarifies this for us when it writes "that you are doing well in every way." Further, the Amplified version says, "That in every way you may succeed."

Here in Third John, the apostle John writes that we must have the truth in us, and we must walk in that truth.⁵ Certainly, we can never prosper if we do not learn the truth of God's Word and honor it with our obedience. The darkness of sin and disobedience leads to great loss, but the Word of God opens our eyes of understanding to heaven's victory. When we heed its counsel, it saves, delivers, rescues, protects, and heals. It is the power of God unto salvation.⁶

God is for us! He never leaves us or forsakes us. He extends His hand of love and mercy to us, strengthening us so that we can run and not be weary, walk and not faint. We may be distressed, perplexed and troubled but He empowers us so

that we can soar like an eagle. Riding on the currents of God's Word, we will know great and abiding peace.⁷

God's Word engulfs us in His glory. The darkness of hatred, bitterness, and strife turn out the light of His glory. Selfishness, greed, and jealousy blind us to the power of His Word. Immorality and dishonesty quickly steal our strength and defeat us. But, oh the glory of His light! The hymnist, John Henry Sammis, aptly wrote, "When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word, what a glory He sheds on our way. While we do His good will, He abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey."⁸ If we desire the light of His glorious presence – if we want to walk with Him – we must choose to obey His Word.

Can we trust Him? Will He meet our need? Is His strength available to us when life is difficult? Yes, a thousand times, yes! When He is our Lord and His Word is our guide, we will know His glorious presence, His abundant provision, and His overwhelming peace. "There is no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey!"⁸

¹Ps 119:130 ²Eph 5:8 ³Pr 3:5 ⁴G2137 ⁵Jn 1:3 ⁶Rm 1:16 ⁷Is 40:29-31 ⁸"Trust and Obey"