



19 December 2025

Do not be afraid! Live in the Light!

The dark can be scary.

A boy in a children's book tells us that as the sun goes down the night stretches out, it gets bigger and bigger, and starts to cover everything. And his fear gets bigger too, like a hole he could fall into. He begins to see monster-y shapes on the wall, and something creeping across the floor!

It's not just children who are afraid of the dark.

For those who are afraid of, or simply do not like the dark, Sunday could be a challenging day — daylight will shrink and darkness will grow to its greatest size in all the year.

As challenging as that may be, there is more serious, darker darkness. There is the darker darkness of sin that separates people from God. There is the darker darkness of Satan and his forces as they blind the eyes of those who do not believe in Jesus and are constantly on the prowl to destroy. There is the darker darkness of people rejecting God, His truth and grace, and the increasing moral, sinful dark darkness in our world.

How do we respond to this?

The essential starting place is to start with the Light. Remember that Jesus told us, "I am the Light of the world" (John 9:5), and "I am the Light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of Life" (John 8:12).

You see, the bright Christmas lights, the Advent candles with their increasing light as we move toward Christmas, are not just beautiful. They can, they should remind us that Jesus is the Light, "He is the radiance of [God's] glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power" (Hebrews 1:3).

Looking at, being focused on Jesus removes the fear of the darkness. King David learned this and testified, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You [God] are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4). And again, "The LORD



is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; whom should I dread?” (Psalm 27:1).

King David also tells us, “Trust in the LORD and do good; live in the land and cultivate faithfulness. Delight yourself in the LORD ... He will bring out your righteousness as the light, and your judgment as the noonday” (Psalm 37:4, 6).

The darkness of sin in our world, sin in our lives should not lead us to fear, but to run to, to live in the Light of Christ. In his first letter the apostle John wrote,

“This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:5-7).

The first step for every child of God is to *walk in the Light*, to live in, live out the truth of God. When we sin, as John tells us, “If we confess our sins, He [God] is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

Going back to king David, he sang to God, “For You light my lamp; the LORD my God illumines my darkness” (Psalm 18:28).

So, as the hymn sings,

“Come to the Light, 'tis shining for thee! Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me. Once I was blind, but now I can see. The Light of the world is Jesus.”

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Pastor Lyle