



I am the Light of the world

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“When Christ declares, “I am,” as in, “I am the light of the world,” “I am the truth,” “I am the way,”¹ He reveals Himself to the world and offers Himself as the Saviour of mankind.

The high priest and the priests asked Him, ‘How could You call Yourself that?’ He responded, “before Abraham was, I AM.”² They said to Him, ‘You are not 50 years old, yet you say that You have seen Abraham.’³

When Christ, to whom is due all glory, offers Himself to me as the Saviour so I may have fellowship with Him, and declares, “I am the light of the world,”⁴ this Light of the world will be in me and for me, so that I don’t walk in the darkness I was living in; I’ll partake of the eternal light and live in the light.

So, they (the Jews) said to Him, ‘You witness for Yourself.’ But when Christ rose from the dead, He proved that what He said is truth.

He declared to His disciples many times before His crucifixion that the Son of Man would be handed over to the synagogue and the rulers; He revealed His suffering and the manner of His death, and how long His body would remain in the grave; that He would rise after three days.

So, when He rose from the dead, everything He said was proven to be true, unlike any ruler or king who claims they will do or change things, but does not fulfill their promises or claims.

The resurrection proved that Christ’s words are truth, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”⁵

So, isn’t it profitable and beneficial for me to live accordingly? For if someone is not walking with Him, they walk in darkness, because darkness has blinded their eyes.

¹ John 14:6

² John 8:58

³ John 8:57

⁴ John 8:12

⁵ John 8:12

St. John wrote in his gospel that when the true Light appeared to the world, humankind loved the darkness more,⁶ for their deeds were evil, and everyone who does evil is in darkness, and everyone who does the truth, is in the light.

So, 'He who follows Me, My son, My disciple, the one who believes in Me, will never walk in darkness, for they have the light in them. The works of darkness are in the world: lies, deceit, hypocrisy, envy. He who follows Me will never walk in them again.'

A person who follows Christ cannot lie, for lies are the work of darkness; the thief steals in darkness, in secret.

Christ's words became a cornerstone for me because of His resurrection; they are all true.

When He says, "Do not be afraid,"⁷ this was not a word of comfort.

When He said, "My peace I give to you," His peace dwells in us; all His promises are truth.

"I will not leave you nor forsake you."⁸

My eye is upon you. "The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous."⁹

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."¹⁰

These are words of truth.

Take one of Christ's promises, and build your life upon it, because Christ promised.

In 'The Paradise of the Fathers', all the monks gathered around one of the fathers—an ordinary monk, not famous—at the time of his departure. They found his face shining brightly, like that of an angel. The fathers asked him, "Why is your face shining? We know you very well." He answered, "From the moment I came to this monastery 40 or 50 years ago, I held onto one of Christ's promises. He said, "Judge not, that you be not judged."¹¹ I believe the words of Christ, and took them as my vow, held onto them, and built my whole life on them; I do not judge any person so I would not be judged. So, all my life I did not judge any person, and am sure and confident that when I see Christ, He will not judge me."

⁶ John 1: 5, 11

⁷ Revelation 1:17

⁸ Joshua 1:5

⁹ Psalm 34: 15

¹⁰ John 14: 3

¹¹ Matthew 7:1

Hold onto one of Christ's promises and build your whole life on that promise. His promises are many; read the Bible:

"I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands."¹²

"...he who touches you touches the apple of His eye."¹³ This is a promise that will bring peace, not fear.

"...neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand... no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand."¹⁴ I am in His hand, and there is no power in the world that can snatch me out of His hand.

"And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."¹⁵

That is why there are those who race to do good deeds, because Christ will never forget a good deed.

All His promises are truth; the promise of life would make a person live in joy and peace.

"...I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh..."¹⁶

"No longer do I call you servants...but I have called you friends..."¹⁷ What else do we need to realise we are the beloved of Christ?

"I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one."¹⁸ Doesn't it give you comfort that you are protected and kept away from the evil one?

Why do I tell people to read the Bible every day? In it you will find God's promises; you will find that He offered Himself to me: "I am the way." So I will never be lost, because Christ said He is the way.

"I am the truth and the life," "I am the light; anyone who follows Me will never walk in darkness."

The scribes and pharisees opposed Him for every word He said. We, the believers, know Him.

"...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings..."¹⁹

¹² Isaiah 49: 16

¹³ Zechariah 2: 8

¹⁴ John 10: 27-29

¹⁵ Matthew 10: 42

¹⁶ Joel 2: 28; Acts 2:17

¹⁷ John 15:15

¹⁸ John 17:15

¹⁹ Philippians 3:10

I know Christ, not with intellectual knowledge—'Isn't He the son of Joseph the carpenter?'—This is intellectual knowledge.

As for us, the believers, we truly know Him because when we call on our Heavenly Father we say, "Our Father who art in Heaven," for we were born to the Father in Christ Jesus.

Since the first century, the Church has added this part to the Lord's prayer: "Through Jesus Christ Our Lord, for Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory."

When you read the gospels, you will not find this addition. We say to the Father, 'You are my Father, in Christ.'

Because when I abide in Christ, I become a son. I entered sonship; I have the privilege of speaking as a son, because of Christ, and in Christ.

So, if we are sons and daughters, then we know Him, and His words to us are unlike the words of those who opposed Him. He said, "I am the light of the world," and explained it to them, but John the beloved wrote in his gospel that after Jesus had said these words, "...Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by."²⁰

They remained in darkness. When the light is absent, they remain in the dark.

So, when you read the Bible and your heart is open, and you keep the words, you receive the Light of life.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path."²¹

That is why I tell you to read the Bible. Remember God's promises and you will give thanks to God, for He has done wonderful works for me, and His promises are true, and I live as a sojourner in this world, relying on Your words.

When His disciples felt offended by His statement that His body is food indeed, He said to His disciples, "'Do you also want to go away?'" But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."²²

The words of eternal life are in the Bible; it contains all God's promises, all His work, and all His goodness for me and my future. The Bible lights my way: "whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness."²³ "...for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going. You judge according to the flesh."²³

²⁰ John 8: 59

²¹ Psalm 119:105

²² John 6: 67-68

²³ John 8: 14-15

They look upon Him in the intellectual sense, according to the flesh. St. Paul writes, "Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer."²⁴

We are spiritual; we see through our new eye, created through baptism. So, we see the things God granted us, and we know Christ in person, not according to the outward man, but according to faith. We see Him and realise Him, not with the mind, but with the spirit.

Glory be to God. Amen."

²⁴ 2 Corinthians 5:16