

Jesus Christ Is the Truth—Let There Be Light

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“Stand Forever” Episode 16

Hello, my name is Larry Corbridge, and this is Episode 16 of the *Stand Forever Series*. In past episodes we considered the essential problem in life as separation from God Our Father—not only physically but in character, knowledge, and power. The primary and most devastating consequences flowing from that separation are chaos, darkness, and death. Jesus Christ is the Way offsetting chaos, the Truth offsetting darkness, and the Life offsetting death. He alone bridges the gap if we will believe and follow Him to the end. We considered Christ as the Way to the gifts of God’s Spirit and God’s life. We concluded the destination is reunion with God, receiving the gift of God’s Son, God’s Spirit and God’s life and helping others do the same and in that process become like the Lord.

In this and coming episodes we turn our attention to Christ as the Truth offsetting darkness. In the light of Truth we can get a fix on who and where we are (Point A) and knowing the destination (Point B), we can then chart the course in between. The Lord Jesus Christ is not only the Way (the destination), He is also the Truth (how to get there), and the Life (the reward when you do).

“Let There Be Light”

Without intervention, without light, darkness reigns. It is the natural state of things. God offsets the natural state of things. In Genesis it is recorded, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And God said, Let there be light and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.”¹ That first command “let there be light” echoes down through the ages and rings loudly through the darkness that lingers still.

Let there be light. While God created the heavens and the earth, there is no indication He created light as well. Rather the command was for light to emerge. We need to do the same. Let it be. Invite it in.

¹ Genesis 1:1-4

Satan is “the prince of darkness,”² and Jesus Christ is “the Light of the World.”³ He said, “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”⁴ John also said, “In him (Christ) was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in the darkness and the darkness comprehended it not ... That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”⁵

Everyone who comes into the world is endowed with light. The Lord said, “And the Spirit giveth light to every man that cometh into the world; and the Spirit enlighteneth every man through the world, that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit.”⁶

Common sense recommends walking in the light, otherwise we stumble. Jesus asked, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.”⁷

The truth chases darkness away. As the Lord said, “That which is of God is light; and he that receiveth light, and continueth in God, receiveth more light; and that light growth brighter and brighter until the perfect day. And again, verily I say unto you, and I say it that you may know the truth, that you may chase darkness from among you.”⁸

The light of the gospel brings people “out of obscurity and darkness.”⁹ The Lord said: “And also those to whom these commandments were given (members of the Church), might have power to lay the foundation of this church, and to bring it forth out of obscurity and out of darkness, the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth, with which I, the Lord, am well pleased, speaking unto the church collectively and not individually.”¹⁰ The Church emerges out of “obscurity and darkness” as its members follow Him who is the Light of the World.

² John 14:30 (JST)

³ John 8:12

⁴ John 8:12

⁵ John 1:4, 5, 9

⁶ Doctrine and Covenants 84:46

⁷ John 11:9

⁸ Doctrine and Covenants 50:24, 25, *emphasis added*

⁹ 1 Nephi 22:12

¹⁰ Doctrine and Covenants 1:30; *See also* 2 Nephi 3:5

Speaking of members of the Church, Paul said Heavenly Father made “saints in light” and “delivered us from the power of darkness.”¹¹ He also said, “For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye **light in the Lord: walk as children of light:** (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”¹²

The Lord said: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”¹³ He also said, “Therefore, hold up your light that it may shine unto the world. Behold I am the light which ye shall hold up—that which ye have seen me do.”¹⁴ More than “be a good example” the Lord seems to say, “Do not be afraid to shine. Don’t hide my light. Follow me and do not be ashamed to stand out. Do not try to blend in. Let my light shine in you. Let it happen. Let there be light.”

The common tendency is to blend in with the crowd. Most of us are uncomfortable with attention. Most of us would rather go somewhat unnoticed. If you can blend in, less may be expected of you. Safety is thought to be found in numbers blending in with the crowd which gives rise to a silent accord of low expectations, an unconscious consensus of mediocrity.

The Lord promised that if we care for the poor and provide help for those in need, “Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rearward then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday: And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.”¹⁵

If you follow the Lord, you will be a light shining in the darkness. Your light will shine, which will be Him, His light, and whether you choose it or want it, you will be a city set on a hill.¹⁶ You will not be able to hide, especially today as the world grows ever darker. Often you will stand out and alone. The Lord essentially says: “I am the Light

¹¹ Colossians 1:12-13

¹² Ephesians 5:8-11, *emphasis added*

¹³ Matthew 5:16

¹⁴ 3 Nephi 18:24

¹⁵ Isaiah 58:6-11

¹⁶ Matthew 5:14

which should shine within you. Do not be ashamed of me and hide the light. Do not dim the light. Do not try to blend in. Follow me and do not fear.”

Marianne Williamson, an American author famously said this:

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, “Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?” Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won’t feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone.¹⁷

Let there be light. The Lord’s purpose is to empower, uplift and exalt all His children that the light of their lives may all shine forth. In the Book of Ether it is recorded that “the Lord caused stones to shine in darkness, to give light unto men, women and children that they might not cross the great waters in darkness.”¹⁸ He can touch you as well, if you let Him, and if you do, you will shine and neither you nor those who travel with you will cross the great waters of life in darkness.

As recorded in Isaiah, “Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.”¹⁹ Chose to receive the Truth that you may chase darkness from among you.²⁰ Let there be light and let your light shine.

In the next three episodes we will explore the question *Who Are You?* I hope you will join me then.

¹⁷ Marianne Williamson, *A Return To Love: Reflections on the Principles of “A Course in Miracles”* (Harper Collins, 1992), chapter 7, section 3. Taken from movie *Akeelah and the Bee*.

¹⁸ Ether 6:3; 3:4-6

¹⁹ Isaiah 60:1-3

²⁰ Doctrine and Covenants 50:25, *emphasis added*