

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



The first recounted act of God was to create something called “light”. By God’s voice, “Let there be light.” And there was light. God judged this light to be good and separated it from the darkness. And we learn that light was called Day. Other lights were created—a light for day and a light for night, set in the heavens to give light to the earth. The New Testament picks this up early on. John opens his gospel much like Genesis, claiming that in Jesus was life and the life was the light of mankind—that this light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

Light is a major, constant theme throughout the gospel of John. Jesus is, as he himself claims (John 8:12), the light of the world, separating himself and all of those who would know and follow him from the darkness. Light and darkness in John take on a moral quality. Light is the arena of truth, rejoicing, protection, and uprightness while darkness is the realm of evil, stumbling, and wandering.

Each of us has a choice to make—whether we will walk in the light or in the darkness. When the choice is made to walk in the light in Christ, the light does not just shine on you like the moon, it shines in you like the sun and stars. Christ’s light is not just an external guide to right living; it is an internal transformation to a redeemed life. Thus the hymn declares, “In him there is no darkness at all; the night and the day are both alike.”

On first glance, that makes no sense. How can day and night be both alike? Night, as we read in Genesis, is the absence of light and we know, as surely as we have lived a day, that there is a natural cycle of night following day.

The night is not like the day except that for the person in Christ, there is nothing to fear in the dark. Psalm 121 promises, “The Lord is your keeper. The Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not harm you by day nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; he will preserve your soul.”

The darkness has no power in itself. It is the absence of light. Because light is internal to the follower of Jesus, then there is nothing to fear, no reason to hide, and no cause for worry. God walks with us.