

# Arise, Your Light Is Come



“Arise, shine, for your light has come!” So begins the encouragement to God’s people in Isaiah 60 to give witness and glory to God by being a light to the nations. God chose Israel to be such a light and Isaiah reminds the people of their high calling and their sure future.

We remember that Jesus described himself as the “light of the world” and told his followers not to hide their light under a bushel, but to ‘let your light shine before others so they may see your good works and give glory to the Father.’

This light does not come from within us. We are enabled to shine precisely because our light has come from outside of us and come into us. It is a light that comes from outside, penetrates deeply, and then re-emerges from deep within. Christians sometimes get confused, believing that the wisdom, peace, joy, or righteousness that is within them is their own and a result of their own work. It’s not. It never is. It is God’s light. Isaiah gets the order right: Because God’s light has now come to you, get up and shine. Shine for the world to see—not for your glory but for the glory of the Lord.

Your light has come . . . as wisdom and understanding in the face of confusion,

Your light has come. . . as forgiveness and new life for the one who has sinned,

Your light has come . . . as a way forward when the way is dark.

Your light has come . . . as clarity in the midst of confusion

. . . as love in the face of loneliness

. . . as faith in a sea of doubt

. . . as hope when it seems like there’s nothing worth living for.

To have faith and hope is to believe that a light shines in the darkness and, despite all evidence to the contrary, the darkness has not overcome it. This is indeed faith when we live with the sure evidence of the darkness all around us. We see the darkness each time we open a paper or turn on the news. Rightly so, the first two chapters of Hebrews assure us of the heavenly reign of Christ, but acknowledge the world is still a dark place, “At present we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels.” (Hebrews 2.9)

When we do see Jesus, we see the light of the world, “Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

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