

LIGHT AND LIFE

The Order of Creation

A Teaching from The Branch of Righteousness

In Genesis, light did not simply illuminate life — it preceded it. Before anything lived, God said, “Let there be light.” Light was the first word spoken over the void, and only after it appeared could life follow. This is not incidental; it is pattern. Spiritual light always comes before spiritual life. And what was true at creation’s dawn remains true now: our light — Christ’s light in us — precedes and sustains spiritual life, both in ourselves and in everything connected to us.

Jesus made this explicit:

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

John 8:12

Notice how light and life are woven together in a single phrase — “the light of life.” Light is not merely something we see by; it is the very source from which life flows. Where light goes first, life follows. This is spiritual truth now, and it will be physical reality in the fullness to come.

The Fruit of Light Is Life

Because light and life are joined at the root, wherever light is present, life takes hold — and destinies are realized. The measure is proportional: the more light we carry, the more life flourishes — in us, and in everyone and everything connected to us. The less light we carry, the more that life diminishes, along with everything tethered to it.

This means the effectiveness of our lives is not incidental. It is determined by the degree of light we have chosen to become. And here Scripture gives us three possible conditions of the heart:

- **Transparent light** — light passes through fully; nothing obstructs it. The heart is fully yielded, fully illuminated, fully alive.
- **Translucent light** — light passes through, but diffused, partial, softened by resistance still present in the heart.
- **Opaque light** — light cannot penetrate at all. The heart blocks it entirely.

When Darkness Is Not Just a Condition, But an Identity

Paul addresses this directly in Ephesians:

“For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of Light [lead the lives of those native-born to the Light] (for the fruit — the effect, the result — of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth)...”

Ephesians 5:8–9, AMPC

It is worth pausing on Paul’s exact wording. He does not say believers *were in* darkness, or that they *walked in* darkness — though both are true elsewhere in Scripture. He says, “you *were* darkness.” Not a location. Not a behavior. An identity. Darkness was their nature, their very substance (see also Colossians 1:13). This is the opaque condition — a heart so unyielded that light cannot get in at all, and as a result, no spiritual benefit can reach that person, let alone flow out from them to touch anyone or anything else.

Not Passive Recipients, But Active Participants

This is the sobering — and hopeful — implication: we are not passive recipients of light, simply waiting to be illuminated from the outside. We are active participants. We choose how much light we allow to shape us. And over time, we choose how much of that light we actually *become*.

Paul’s charge is not “receive the light” but “walk as children of Light” — live as those native-born to it, formed by it, identified with it. The fruit of that walk is unmistakable: goodness, righteousness, and truth, taking root first in us, then spilling outward into everything our lives touch.

The question, then, is not whether we have some light. The question is what kind of light we have chosen to become — and what life, or lack of it, that choice is producing in everything connected to us.