

# Power, Part 3 - The Light of Life

Hymns from "Favorite Hymns of Grace."

## Greeting and Opening Prayer

## Hymns of Worship

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## Devotional Summary: "Power, Part 3 - The Light of Life"

John 8:12 (NKJV) Then Jesus ***spoke to them*** again, saying, "I am ***the light of the world***. ***He who follows Me*** shall not walk in darkness, but have ***the light of life***."

*If we are not following Jesus Christ, we are lost, plain and simple. If we are not following Jesus, we have no life! If we are not paying close attention to His communication to us we are fooling ourselves with false hope and the endangerment of "strong delusion" (2Thessalonians 2:11). How many leaders can one man follow? To follow Jesus Christ is to have the path of true life illuminated at our very feet.*

**"Light of Life..."** Look at John 1:5 (NKJV)- **"And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."** Darkness does not comprehend - or understand - light.

*[The word "comprehend" in John 1:5 is translated from the Greek word, katalambano. In Strong's Greek dictionary, the definition of this word means "to lay hold of," in other words, in a mental sense, it refers to the ability to understand something. For example, in Ephesians 3:18 it is used of the Christian believer's capacity to comprehend with all saints the measureless love of God. Conversely, as we see here in John 1:5, the word is used to explain the inability of the heart of the unbeliever to know or perceive the revelation of God made in Christ. On this also see John 12:35. - from Dwight M. Pratt, as quoted in the Online Bible's notes on John 1:5]*

*When Christ Jesus told Nicodemus that "unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:4) He was addressing directly the Pharisee's hopeless inability to see what Jesus was talking about unless God performed a miracle in his being. (See #15, Galatians 5:17 and #16, Romans 8:5-8) As is the case with everyone, even this highly educated religious leader had to be "born from above" in order to have any understanding or experience of the light in Christ's words! Note that Jesus was audibly speaking to Nicodemus words of light but He did not comprehend (vs. 5). He was dumbfounded. He was blind. This highlights the fact that no matter how educated you are about the Bible, you cannot grasp even the simplest, foundational truths of God unless you are a "new creature in Christ Jesus," **EVEN IF YOU COULD HEAR WITH YOUR NATURAL EARS GOD HIMSELF SPEAKING IT TO YOU!!!!!!** (1Corinthians 1:18; 2:14; 2Corinthians 5:17). Nicodemus was looking God Himself directly in the face of Jesus Christ and he was listening precisely to the "Word" of God on the lips of the Lord and he still had no clue to what Jesus was talking about because he did not yet have the spiritual ears to hear it and the spiritual eyes to see it. Darkness does not*

*understand light. Mortal man, on his own, cannot grasp the things of God.*

*But to those to whom God has given ears to hear and eyes to see (those who have been "born from above" or "born again") there is an endless ocean of wonderful, healthy truth and awesome life-giving wisdom to bathe in for eternity! Consider these four scriptures:*

***"Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law" (Psalm 119:18). Wow! Is it not a great gift to look at the "law" through spiritual eyes and being able to honestly say, "That is wonderful! That is awesome! I want more of the LAW!"***

***"And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures" (Luke 24:45, see vs. 1-49). I think it can be said here that "opening our understanding" is the spiritual parallel of "opening our eyes." Oh, how dark is the understanding of those who have no eyes...whose eyes are not capable of seeing the TRUTH...the LIGHT...the WORD! The "He" here is Christ. He is the Shepherd, remember? If He does not open the door of the sheepfold to you, you are NOT getting in (see John 10:1-9). Though we may have memorized them - verbatim - from cover to cover, if God does not open the Scriptures to us personally, if God does not open our spiritual eyes, then we have no comprehension, no understanding of what they mean for us, what they mean to our eternal soul. How humbling it must have been for these devout Jewish disciples of the innermost circle of Jesus' followers, who had been with Him day and night for three and a half years, to suddenly realize they had no understanding of the law of Moses, the Prophets, or Psalms (all of which they had studied religiously their whole life) until God supernaturally enlightened them. How priceless is that?!!! Do we see how precious a thing God has done in our lives, to open our spiritual eyes to see the "amazing grace" of the Son of God? ...ONLY BELIEVE?!!!***

***"For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ " (2Corinthians 4:6). What? What does it say? "...LIGHT to shine OUT OF DARKNESS"? How can this be? Go look in the mirror and watch yourself sing "Amazing Grace" from the bottom of your heart and you will see "light" shining out of darkness! We are completely, hopelessly full of darkness in and of ourselves. If there is a modicum of sincere "believeth in Him" in our heart then we are a supernatural manifestation of the miraculous power of God to call light to shine out of darkness...just as real and actually far more momentous than when He called Light into being in the beginning of creation (Genesis 1:1-5). In fact, when He first opened your eyes to the TRUTH of who Jesus Christ is and what He did for you, it was **the primeval beginning** of the creative life of God in the universe of your soul!***

***"Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light " (Ephesians 5:14; Ezekiel 37:4-10; Isaiah 60:1-22). God says, "AWAKE!" God says, "ARISE!" God gives light.***

*Light is truth, but not just "accurate facts" - light is truth with understanding and discernment and wisdom and compassion and faith and so much more. Light is the basking of the soul in the infinite sea of the love and care of God Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. Light is the medium, the atmosphere, the ethos of communion, true communion, true spiritual communion with the Prince of Peace. All the action figures, and all the super-heros that all the professional gamers and Hollywood dreamers can concoct don't come close to the reality of what believers are called to swim and revel in!!!!!! Oh God, help us put into shoe leather*

*what You mean by "walking in the Light!"*

*Does anyone lack wisdom? Does anyone lack understanding? If you know your grasp of spiritual truth is shrouded with doubt and confusion, if you know you lack insight for living, or strength for believing, or love for giving, then humble yourself before God to ask Him to give such marvelous, priceless gifts to you and He - who gives generously - will bless you with light for your path! (James 1:5-8). Can you hear the Savior calling? Do you see Him walking alone in the garden of your heart, patiently waiting for your company? Is the tug of His Holy Spirit pulling on your conscience? Respond! Answer! Take! Receive! Reach out to Him! Cast all your care on Him, for He cares for you! (1Peter 5:7). We have wasted enough time! Life is short and we will give an account of what we have done with this man Jesus. Therefore let each of us determine by the grace of God to turn our backs on sinful deeds and idle hours, and let us arm ourselves with a dynamic, ongoing, conversational, loving relationship with the Lover of our souls! ...the only Father of the only Light! (Romans 13:12).*

### **Closing Hymn**

Amazing Grace

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### **Prayer Requests and Corporate Prayer**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Recessional**

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