

BE THE LIGHT!

(Ephesians 5:8-14)

Intro: Once you were darkness.
-But now in the Lord you are light.
#Ephesians 5:8.

Biblical writer does not say:
-Once you were in the darkness.
#But now you are in the light.
-Once you walked in the darkness.
#But now you walk in the light.
-Once you lived in the darkness.
#But now you live in the light.

But rather:
-Once you were darkness.
#But now in the Lord you are light.

What does it mean to be?
-Darkness.
-Light.

How does one get from being one to being the other?

I. Certainly We Know.

A. About Being In The Dark.

1. One of the darkest places on earth is a cave.
 - a. I have been in caves.
 - United States.
 - China.
 - New Zealand.
 - b. Last summer I was in two new (for me) caves.
 - Fantastic Caverns.
 - #Springfield, Missouri.
 - #Ride-through cave.
 - Cave of the Mounds.
 - #Near Blue Mounds, Wisconsin.
 - #Where I received a cave kiss.
 - *Drop of water seeping through the limestone.

- c. You can't really enjoy the cave formations.
 - Unless you have light to see.
 - #Although in New Zealand.
 - *Attraction.
 - +Not the rock formations.
 - +But the glowworms.
 - =Not worms at all.
 - =But female fly larvae.
 - Glow in the dark.
 - #Attract:
 - *Mate.
 - *Food.
 - *You take a boat ride through the darkened cave.
 - +See the glow of the glowworms.
 - At some point on most cave tours.
 - #Guides will tell you:
 - *Put your thumb on your nose.
 - *Wiggle your fingers.
 - #Then they turn out the lights.
 - *To show you how dark it gets.
 - *You can't see your fingers in front of your face.
 - #Of course, about then they turn the lights back on.
 - *While we're thumbing our noses at one another.
2. Sometimes we are in the dark in other ways.
- a. If there are things.
 - We don't know about.
 - We don't understand.
 - #We're in the dark.
 - b. One time my son Joel was doing homework on the living room floor.
 - There were two lights in the living room.
 - #One was on a timer.
 - *Other not.
 - #One was on.
 - *Other not.
 - I asked him if he had enough light to see.
 - #He said:
 - *"Yes, I can see."
 - *"But I'm not sure:"
 - + "What I'm supposed to do with this assignment."
 - #Physically.
 - *He was in the light.
 - #Intellectually.
 - *He was in the dark.

3. Gospel lesson (John 9:1-41).
 - a. Blind man.
 - In the dark physically.
 - #He couldn't see.
 - b. Pharisees.
 - In the dark spiritually.
 - #They couldn't see Jesus for who he was.
 - *Prophet.
 - *From God.
 - *Son of Man.
 - *Lord.
4. We know about being in the dark.

B. About Being In The Light.

1. Now that we are into daylight savings time.
 - a. I don't enjoy getting up in the dark.
 - b. But I do enjoy the extended daylight at the end of the day.
 - Time to be outside after work.
 - Time to take a bike ride.
2. There is less SADness.
 - a. Seasonal Affective Disorder.
 - b. When there is more daylight.
3. When I got down on the floor with Joel.
 - a. I needed another light on to see the instructions for his assignment.
 - b. When I explained the assignment to him.
 - Then he saw the light.
4. Gospel lesson (John 9:1-41).
 - a. Blind man came to see the light.
 - In more ways than one.
 - b. Physically.
 - When Jesus gave him his sight.
 - c. Spiritually.
 - When he came to believe that Jesus was his Lord.
5. We know about being in the light.

II. But What Do We Know?

A. About Being Darkness And Being Light.

1. Jesus says:
 - a. "I am the light of the world."
 - John 9:5.
 - b. "You are the light of the world."
 - Matthew 5:14.

2. Being darkness and being light.
 - a. About more than:
 - What we do.
 - Keeping the rules.
 - Trying to figure out:
 - #“What would Jesus do?”
 - Posting the 10 Commandments.
 - #In classrooms.
 - #On the capitol grounds.
 - b. About:
 - Who we are.
 - Whose we are.
 - c. “Once you were darkness.”
 - “But now in the Lord you are light.”

B. About How That Transformation Takes Place.

1. Power.
 - a. Beyond our understanding.
 - b. Can go either way.
 - From darkness to light.
 - From light to darkness.
 - #*Star Wars* movies.
 - *Six in all.
 - *1977-2005.
 - #Darth Vader.
 - *Not always the Dark Side of the Force.
 - +Personification of evil.
 - *He started out as:
 - +Anakin Skywalker.
 - =Father of:
 - Luke Skywalker.
 - Princess Leia.
 - =Jedi knight.
 - Good guy.
 - Light.
 - *Light was turned to darkness.
 - From darkness to light.
 - *From crucifixion.
 - *To resurrection.
 - *From death.
 - *To life.
 - *From blindness.
 - *To sight.
 - *From unbelief.
 - *To faith.

2. How?
 - a. I don't know how.
 - God does what God does.
 - b. How does mud in your eye create sight?
 - c. How does a cross create life?
 - Forgiveness.
 - Mercy.
 - Grace.
 - d. How does darkness become light?
3. Maybe the best we can say is that we know it when we see it.
 - a. When Good Friday becomes Easter.
 - Darkness becomes light.
 - #Once you were darkness.
 - *But now in the Lord you are light.
 - b. Blind man.
 - Knew light when he saw it.
 - Knew Jesus was Lord when he saw him.
 - #Once you were darkness.
 - *But now in the Lord you are light.
 - c. I still have several pen pals.
 - Members of the St. Louis County Jail Alumni Association.
 - #Who stay in touch.
 - In a recent letter.
 - #I told them that my dad had died back in December.
 - More than one wrote back.
 - #Each one:
 - *Convicted of murder.
 - *At one time "darkness."
 - #Each one:
 - *Offering words of:
 - +Comfort.
 - +Light.
 - *Repeating words they claimed to have heard from me.
 - + "Where Jesus is, there is promise."
 - + "Where there is promise, there is life."
 - =Words:
 - I don't remember saying.
 - I don't remember saying in that exact way.
 - Once you were darkness.
 - #But now in the Lord you are light.

- c. John Henry Newton.
 - At one time:
 - #Sailor.
 - #Slave trader.
 - But then he became:
 - #Clergyman.
 - #Abolitionist.
 - #Hymn writer.
 - His most famous hymn.
 - #*Amazing Grace*.
 - *I once was lost, but now am found;
 - *Was blind, but now I see.
 - Once you were darkness.
 - #But now in the Lord you are light.
- d. How are we light in the Lord?
 - With a word of forgiveness.
 - #For those who are guilt-ridden.
 - With a word of peace.
 - #For those who have crossed us.
 - With a word of hope.
 - #For those who are struggling.
 - With a word of comfort.
 - #For those who are grieving.
 - With a bag of groceries.
 - #For those who are hungry.
 - With a ride to the doctor.
 - #For those who have no wheels.
 - With a phone call.
 - #For those who are alone.
 - With a lunch date.
 - #For those who don't get out much.
 - Once you were darkness.
 - #But now in the Lord you are light.

Concl: So be the light.

- Be the light!
 - #You were created to be.
 - #You were baptized to be.
 - #You were redeemed to be.
- Be the light!