

**I am the light of the world, says the Lord!**

Isaiah 58:7-10

Psalm 112:4-9

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Matthew 5:13-16

In the first reading Isaiah reminds the Israelites to help those in dire need. They are expected to remove oppression and not indulge in false accusations or malicious speech. In return the Lord will give them light, healing, protection, guidance, and answer their prayers.

The Psalmist describes the qualities of true believers who fear the Lord as exhibiting light in darkness and they are an example to the upright in their generosity to the poor. Their trust in the Lord will be evident to many as their actions are merciful and gracious. They need not even fear enemies.

In the second reading Paul tells the Corinthians that he came to them in weakness, fear, and trepidation. He spoke only of Christ's crucifixion and that was done not in a persuasive force of worldly argumentation but rather in the power of the Spirit. Our beliefs then rest upon the power of an almighty God.

In the Gospel Jesus says that his followers are the light of the world and as such cannot be hidden. We are to let our light shine before others so that they can see the Father work in us and give glory to Him.

Pure Father of Light,  
Transfigured Son,  
Silent Light of the Holy Spirit,  
Illuminating safe paths in the darkness.

The first words spoken by God in the Bible (Genesis 1:3) are, "Let there be light!" One can identify three kinds of light: physical light as that coming from nature as in the sun; "uncreated light" as manifested in Christ at the transfiguration and in mystical experiences such as when Paul was encompassed in a blinding light; and metaphorical light as used in our readings today. "Seeing the light" can refer to a sudden understanding; seeing "light at the end of the tunnel" implies a hopeful ending. Having your light shine is one way of saying you are to be an example of the Spirit working within and this inner glow comes about by being strong in faith, generous to those in need, just in all of your dealings, and truthful, as well as uplifting in your speech.

*The lamp of the body is the eye.  
It follows that if your eye is sound,  
your whole body will be filled with light. ( Matthew 6:22)*

*Jesus spoke to them again, saying,  
"I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,  
but will have the light of life."(John 8:12)*

*For God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"  
has shone in our hearts to bring to light  
the knowledge of the glory of God  
on the face of (Jesus) Christ.(2Cor 4:6)*

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