

WHEN THE BIG LIGHT SHINES ...
WE GOTTA' LET IT SHINE ...

LIGHT

*WHEN MY EYE IS
HEALTHY, GOD FLOODS
MY LIFE WITH LIGHT.*



DARKNESS

*BUT WHEN MY EYE IS BAD,
THEN I AM LEFT TO MYSELF,
AND I AM FILLED WITH
DARKNESS ...*



*The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will
be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.*

If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

(Matthew 6:22-23 ESV)

1. WHEN THE "BIG LIGHT" SHINES, WE NEED TO LET IT SHINE, LET IT SHINE, LET IT SHINE.

(LUKE 11:29-36 ESV)

- When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, "This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. 30 For as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. 31 The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. 32 The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here."

COMMENTARY: Light was in abundance; receivability, not availability, was their problem.

Why is this significant that they are asking for a sign? Because they were saying that they did not have enough information to believe in Christ. They were in effect saying that they did not have sufficient light to make a decision. So the Son of Man answered with the following metaphor.

- No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. 34 Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. 35 Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. 36 If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light.

COMMENTARY: They did not reverence the light and give it preeminence; they put it in the basement.

Christ rebukes them. Their problem was not one of insufficient light but of spiritual blindness from an

THERE WAS PLENTY OF LIGHT.

THEY HAD AN EYE PROBLEM.

unhealthy eye. The lamp must be given a prominent position in the house so its light can fill the house. If we relegate the light to a lesser place-in the cellar or under a basket, then we will not be able to see the light and the light will not dispel the darkness.

The person who consigns the word of God to the cellar or hides the word under a basket of human rationality is guilty of standing in judgment of the word of God. When this person insistently relegates the truth of God to this lesser place, he demonstrates that his eye is unhealthy. This unhealthy (bad) eye then transforms light into darkness, and the person's life (body) is filled with light that is now darkness.

In contrast, the person who gives the light its rightful, prominent place in their spiritual house has a healthy eye which allows the light to flood this individual's life with the truth of God.

- (Ephesians 1:16-18 NLT) I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. **I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light** so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.

2. WE NEED TO LEARN TO LOVE THE "BIG LIGHT" AND RUN TO IT NOT AWAY FROM IT.

(JOHN 3:19-21 ESV)

- And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. 21 But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.

COMMENTARY: This is an ongoing battle, and we only walk in the light when we walk in obedience to God and his word. Our disobedience reveals our preference for

darkness over light. **Disobedience is our refusal to do what is right to cover for our wrong actions.**

3. ONLY UNDER THE "BIG LIGHT" WILL WE VALUE THINGS AS GOD DOES.

(MATTHEW 6:19-23 ESV)

- Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

COMMENTARY: If we do not pay careful attention to the teaching of Scripture, then we will set the values as to what is most important in life. By default we value life by earthly standards. **Only by** walking by the Spirit in the light of God's word will we discover what we value most.

As with real estate, location is everything when it comes to identifying what we truly value. Because when we identify what we truly value, we find the location of our heart. And the location of our heart determines our eye health—our ability to receive light and understand the things God wants us to know.

Our natural, human tendency is to protect what we treasure. So if our treasure is on earth, then our ability to receive truth in general, and the truth of God's word specifically, will be corrupted with this earthly bias, and we will expend our resources and energy to make and find happiness in the immediate—the temporary joys and satisfactions of the here and now.

- The eye is the lamp of the body. **So, if your eye is healthy,** your whole body will be full of light, 23 **but if your eye is bad,** your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

COMMENTARY: It is not a suggestion. We are commanded to focus our attention on heaven.

When we build up our treasure on earth instead of heaven, we directly disobey God. We damage our

ability to understand God now and in the future.

- (Colossians 3:1-2 ESV) If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek the things that are above,** where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 **Set your minds on things that are above,** not on things that are on earth.
- (1 Peter 1:13 ESV) Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, **set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

We must persistently seek the things above and set our minds on the things above, or we will seek the things of earth and our minds and values will shift to earth. In doing this we damage our eye to the extent that even the light we receive becomes darkness. And when your light is darkness, when your truth is a lie, that is great, great darkness.

However, when we obey God something very wonderful and amazing happens. We are flooded with light.

4. IF WE DO NOT LIVE BY THE "BIG LIGHT" THEN THE LIGHT WE HAVE WILL BE TAKEN AWAY.

(MARK 4:21-25 ESV)

- And he said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? 22 For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. 23 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." 24 And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. 25 For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."

COMMENTARY: Use it or lose it. Walk in the light God gives you or that light will be taken away.

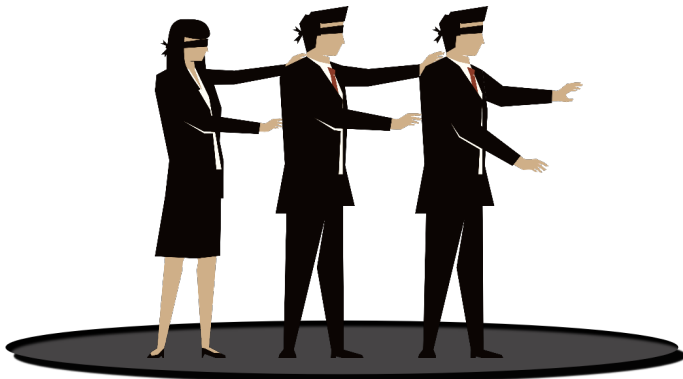
If we hide the light from ourselves or others, we will be found out. We must sense the urgency to hear these words and to pay careful attention to these words. If we live in the light that the Holy Spirit gives us, he will give us more. If we dismiss this light ... relegate it to the cellar ... then the understanding we

have will be taken away from us.

- (Mark 4:24-25 NLT) Then he added, "Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given—and you will receive even more. 25 To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them."
- (Mark 4:14-15 ESV) The sower sows the word. 15 And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.

RELEVANT CROSS-REFERENCES ...

- (Matthew 15:18-19 ESV) But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the **heart**, and this defiles a person. 19 For out of the **heart** come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.
- (Psalm 18:28, 30 ESV) For it is you who **light** my **lamp**; the LORD my God **lightens** my **darkness**. This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.
- (Psalm 119:105 ESV) Your word is a **lamp** to my feet and a **light** to my path.
- (Proverbs 6:23 ESV) For the commandment is a **lamp** and the teaching a **light**, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life.
- (Proverbs 13:9 ESV) The **light** of the righteous rejoices, but the **lamp** of the wicked will be put out.
- (2 Peter 1:19 ESV) And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a **lamp** shining in a **dark place**, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your **hearts**.
- (Isaiah 50:11 NLT) But watch out, you who live in your own **light** and warm yourselves by your own fires. This is the reward you will receive from me: You will soon fall down in great torment.



Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.

(Matthew 15:14 NIV)