

LIGHT OF GOD

This is again going back to the basics of our Salvation and asking ourselves where we stand right now.

In Darkness

The Bible clearly says that all of us has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God(Romans 3,23). The glory of God is light, light and light. That is why when Adam and Eve sinned the light which was the glory of God, which covered them so long, disappeared from them. That is the reason they both discovered they were naked. Before they sinned they were clothed in light for God created them after His own image and our God is a God who dwells in light. Psalm 104 : 2-3.

When the light left, darkness entered, the souls darkened and humans over a long long period have been desperately searching for this truth.

Plato's Cave Analogy

Plato the Greek philosopher who lived way back in 3rd century BC(Before Christ), wrote an analogy in search of a higher truth. He writes of a group of people sitting in a dark cave sitting facing the wall. They are chained in a way they cannot turn any side, but only could see straight. Between the opening of the cave and the wall there is a fire and the shadow of the world is thrown across the wall. Now the prisoners can only see the shadows on the wall, but never the real procession of the world outside or the real light. And all of them are very sure that this is the whole world and the shadows are real. But when one of them is freed and goes out he is speechless with the beauty and grandeur of the real world, with the clear light of day and the myriad colours.

Somehow this example is perfect for a soul touched by the light of heaven. One day we were all sitting in a cave full of darkness and sin, but suddenly the Son of Man walked in and released us from the bondage of sin and brought us into His glorious light.

That is why the birth of Jesus was heralded with shining star and angelic choir. This is one of my favourite verses : “ Through the tender mercy of our God with which the Dayspring from on High hath visited us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.” Luke 1, 78-79. The Dayspring means the sun, so Jesus Christ is described as the Sun of Heaven.

From Darkness to Light

When this Dayspring entered our lives we were flooded with light and joy.

When God entered our sinful lives one day, we did not have to do anything to be saved. This is the scandal of the gospel, that we who have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, become partakers of this heavenly light, the moment we believe on the finished work of the Cross. The exact moment I believe, trust and confess that Jesus bore the penalty of my sins on the Cross, I am forgiven on account of my punishment borne by Jesus Christ on the Cross. To do nothing , yet to be gloriously saved is the scandal of the gospel. We do not need to do anything to be saved. It is by grace and grace and grace alone.

But after we are saved gloriously it becomes our responsibility and duty to “proclaim the praises of Him, who brought us out from darkness into His glorious light.” I Peter 2,9.

Jesus tells all of us, that the people of the world may see our good works and glorify our Father in Heaven. Matt 5,16.

We are saved and called to proclaim the praises of our God, and to do good works and live a life worthy of the calling we have so undeservedly received,

so that our God is glorified. This bit is quite difficult, that is the practical part of it. It is easy to believe and to be saved, it simply awesome to be in the church and worship, but to do good works amidst a crooked and perverse generation, is very difficult.

But this is exactly what God expects us to do. Some years ago, Christians commanded respect from at work place. The officers trusted Christians with big responsibilities. But today the benchmark is steadily eroding. This extreme extension of the doctrine of grace has bred a new set of believers who think they can keep on sinning and every Sunday they would be forgiven again and again. I don't want to comment on such behaviour. But God would certainly be pained by such behaviour.

As most of you know, my father passed away eleven years ago. Quite recently a very senior professor from the university came to my room. I happen to mention that my father had done his PhD from this university some 20 yrs ago. When I told daddy's name, that professor was shocked to know I was his daughter and he almost rose up in his chair. He looked at me and just kept repeating to me, "I know Prof. Barnabas, he is a very religious person, very God fearing and a very rare person." And for all that he only knows my dad but never had any personal contact. I sat thinking for a long time. How do people think about us? What do they expect of us as Christians?

Living a God fearing life is commendable, at the same time, we are expected to proclaim the praises of Him who brought us out from darkness into glorious light.

Paul writes that "it is 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.

We are called to shine the light of Jesus in this world. The true gospel is to share the knowledge of this glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Keep the Light

Now that we have come into this glorious light would we always be in eternal light? We cannot pitch our tents in Mount of Transfiguration, but we have to go down, get back to the dark dark world of sin.

We need the grace of God to keep the light.

Psalmist sings, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light upon my path.
“Psalm 119: 105.

It is the word of God, which will be the light of our lives, guiding us each day to walk in His ways, not to go the way the world goes, but to walk in the eternal ways of God.

The wise man writes, “ The spirit of man is the lamp of the Lord searching all the inner depths of his heart.” Proverbs 20 :27.

Sometimes even our intentionally evil deeds may be justified by our parents, spouse, leaders, friends and so on, but our heart will know the real intention of our action. We are not good people. We also scheme, manipulate, subtly malign others and grab opportunities due to somebody else. Even if these actions may be justified by others around us, our heart and conscience is the lamp of the Lord to search the inner motives of our heart. We need to evaluate our motives and intentions, in the light of the Lord. Am I measuring others, with the same measure I use for myself?

Let not the light in you become darkness.

Is it possible that the glorious light slowly dim into darkness ?

Think so. Listen to what Jesus said.

Luke 11:34 (NKJV) ³⁴The lamp of the body is the eye. Therefore, when your eye is good, your whole body also is full of light.

But when *your eye* is bad, your body also *is* full of darkness.

THEREFORE TAKE HEED THAT THE LIGHT WHICH IS IN YOU IS NOT DARKNESS.

If then your whole body *is* full of light, having no part dark, *the whole body* will be full of light, as when the bright shining of a lamp gives you light."

Jesus very clearly explains that the eye is the lamp of the body. Most of us lose the light of life, because our eye strays to see that which would corrupt the soul. That is why Jesus says that even when you see a man or woman lustfully you've already committed adultery in your heart.

Most of the gloriously saved Christians are somehow groping in blindness, because their eyes are seeing that which it should not see. Not just pornography alone, but eyes glued to facebook, television serials, ads, sports etc. Today satan's effective ways of blinding people is to hook them through psychedelic colours of this world. There may not be colourful lights, magic lanterns in the Kingdom of God, but there is a Light which outshines every other light of the world. We cannot hide behind the colours of this world, when one morning this light splits up the world.

It is sad that many young, healthy Christians are blinded by obsessive addiction to computers, video games, pornography, movies etc. Their mind is haunted by what they see. The glorious light receded far far away. Sometimes they wonder was that salvation real. Was that light real?

Tell yourself Yes it is real. Let us turn our eye towards Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Your life is not worth wasting before the blinking blips of the computer screen, you are created to hold aloft the Glorious Light of eternity. As a young man David Livingstone was haunted by the words of a visiting preacher in his church, "I have sometimes seen, in the morning

sun, the smoke of a thousand villages where no missionary has ever been," and decided to go to Africa and the rest is history.

Dear young man and woman what beholds your eye, what catches your eye? Flippant scenes on the LED screen or the smoke of a thousand villages where no light of gospel has ever shone?

Dear Lord help us to see beyond what meets our carnal eye. Help us to fix our eyes on Jesus , the author and perfecter of our faith and to walk firmly towards the Great Hope and Calling you have for each one of us. Help us to look to you and lead scores of people from darkness into your Glorious Light. Lord give us a glimpse of your Glory. Just one more time Lord. Just one more time Lord. In Jesus name. Amen.