

THE HEALING LIGHT, THE SPREADING FIRE



In the meantime, when so many thousands of the multitude had gathered together that they trod upon one another, he began to say to his disciples first,

*"Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.
Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.
Whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have
whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed upon the housetops."*

Luke 12:1-3

Jesus is talking about a time of uncovering, when every hidden thing is exposed by the light.

We usually think of this time of uncovering as happening when the Lord returns in glory.

But for us, and for many like us all over the world, the time of uncovering has already begun.

Arise, shine; for your light has come.

You are the light of the world.

A city set on a hill cannot be hid.

There are certain seasons in the history of the Body of Christ when the light becomes extremely bright. And the first effect this light has on us is that it exposes us for what we are.

The Samaritan woman comes to the well. A Jewish stranger asks her for a drink. In a few minutes this woman finds herself standing in light a million times brighter than the sun.

*"You're right in saying that you have no husband.
You've had five husbands,
and he whom you now have is not your husband."*

... nothing is hidden.

*"Come see a man who told me all that I ever did.
Is not this the Messiah?"*

Or, when Peter falls down in the boat before Jesus and cries,

"Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

The thing that has him upset is this bright light from which he can't hide.

This light exposes him for what he is.... a sinful man.

When the Spirit says to us, *"Arise, shine, for your light has come,"*
we don't feel like arising and shining at first.

Our first reaction to this light is to run and hide.



Our whole life has been hiding, deceiving, covering and pretending.
But to "arise and shine" means we don't run away.

We come toward the light and step into the light.



This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:5-9

The Samaritan woman didn't run from the light, she stepped into it
and her life was transformed by the Lamb of God; cleansed, made new.

And immediately she drew an entire Samaritan village into the light.

Peter cried out for the light to go away and leave him alone.

But Jesus said,

"Don't be afraid Peter. From now on you will be catching men."

Just stay in the light and walk in the light.

And he did ... Peter spent the rest of his life on earth drawing others into the light.

For reasons that only God knows, the same light that visited the Samaritan woman at the well ... that arrested Peter that day in a fishing boat ... that knocked Paul off his horse outside Damascus, is now visiting us and thousands like us all over the earth.

Your light has come.....

The glory of the Lord has risen upon you...

The effect this light is having on us is that it's exposing us for what we are

in great mercy,
in dead seriousness,
in holy judgment.

God is peeling the layers of hypocrisy from our lives and showing us to ourselves.

And as this light continues to shine in the coming days, we're going to see things about ourselves that...

we never saw,
that we never wanted to see,
and that we never wanted to admit.

But these things have to be dealt with if we're going to have a useful place in this revival.

We don't want to admit that we're grossly self-centered, greedy, dishonest, perverse with lust, envious, divisive, cowardly, lazy.

But the first step in the cure is to have these things touched by the finger of God

... even if the touch is painful.

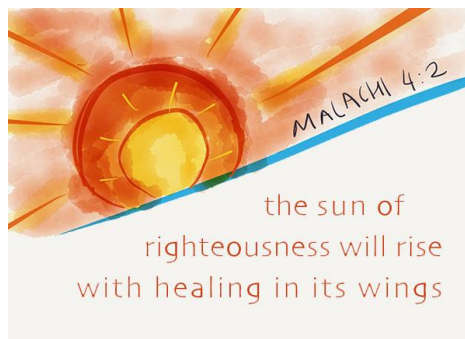
"Behold, I send my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, till they present right offerings to the Lord. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Malachi 3:1-5



There can't be any life until these things of death in us are exposed and burnt up and we can offer our lives to God in true worship, purify ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable ... good and acceptable and perfect.

"For behold, the day comes, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go forth leaping like calves from the stall.



And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts." *Malachi 4:1-3*

It starts out as fire burning up the evil until the fire becomes light and the light becomes glory.

What does it mean to walk in the light?

1. To walk in the light means to confess our sins

... don't hide them, don't mask them ... confess them.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

I John 1:8-9

When he puts his finger on sin, as Jesus did with the Samaritan woman, with Peter, with Paul
... confess it

..."Yes, Lord, that's me.

Yes, Lord, that's what I am."



He's not trying to demoralize us.

He has come to heal us.

And he can only heal us if we confess these sins that he uncovers.

2. To walk in the light is to receive his forgiveness.

Instead of trying to cover our sin sick hearts with a thousand masks,
let the Lamb cover our hearts with his blood.

... but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin ... If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

... forgiveness, cleansing. "Your sins are forgiven." He can only say this when we bring our sins to him.



3. To walk in the light is to embrace his fire.

Once we've confessed our sins and received forgiveness, we stand in this world as Jesus stood: as agents of redemption. We carry a cross as Jesus did... we enter into the same fire that enveloped Jesus.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal which comes upon you to prove you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or a wrongdoer, or a mischief-maker; yet if one suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but under that name let him glorify God. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

I Peter 4:12-17

Power

- ...divine power
- ... healing
- ...redeeming power

will flow out from those who embrace this fire.



"I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how I am constrained until it is accomplished!"

Luke 12:49-50

Jesus cast fire on earth by being baptized with fire at the cross... When that fire fell on him at Calvary it didn't die away in the rain as the fire that came to Elijah's sacrifice.

It kept burning ... it spread.

It spread from Calvary to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria ... the whole earth.

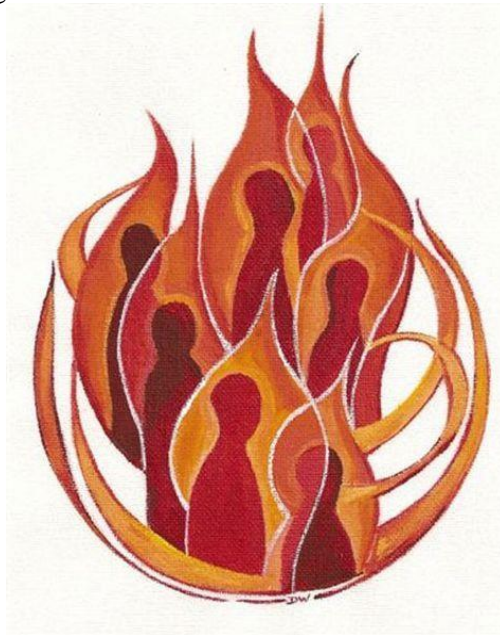
It's burning still.

It's burning hotter than ever.
Now we are the ones who spread that fire.

And we spread that fire by first embracing it ourselves,

by being baptized with it,

by welcoming it into our lives.



Arise, shine; for your light has come.

And that light comes to us as the fire of God that judges, cleanses, heals, purifies, restores.

When we embrace that fire and are cleansed by it, immediately it spreads from us to others.

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples. But the Lord will arise upon you and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Isaiah 60:2-3

But before the nations can come to our light and kings to the brightness of our rising,

... we have to respond to this light

... this fire

... this glory which has come to us

We have to let this light come in and do its work.

We have to let this fire come in and cleanse.

Are we ready today to...

confess our sins to him?
to receive his forgiveness?...
to embrace his fire?

If we

confess our sins,
receive his forgiveness,
embrace his fire,

Jesus' body and blood will indeed be the food of heaven for us today and we will be empowered to spread his fire across the face of this nation and far beyond.



Prayer

God of Light and Redemptive Power baptize us with your fire. Instead of hiding from our sins and trying to deceive both ourselves and you, we uncover our hearts, we expose ourselves to your healing light. Lord Jesus, continually expose the sin and darkness and burn the evil within us. May we embrace and not fear your healing fire. Cover our wounds with your precious blood. Light our souls with your Holy Presence. May we arise and shine in the fire you have ignited within us. As your fire heals, purifies, and restores us, may your beautiful, divine holy fire spread, igniting an inferno of your redemption across this earth.

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