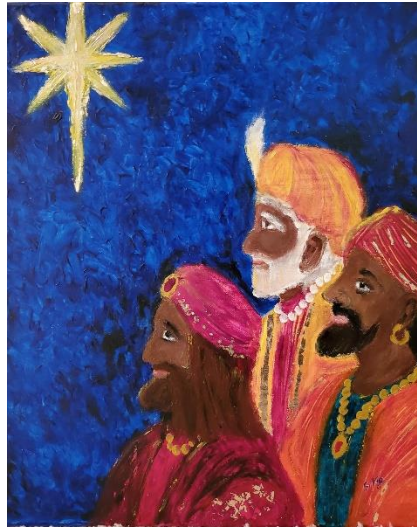


# SEEING THE LIGHT



The wise men saw a star.

Everybody could see that star **if** they knew where to look.

It was probably a cluster of stars lined up close to each other.

It wasn't like the star you see on the Christmas cards.

It was a star among millions.

But these Gentile astrologers knew what it meant.

It meant the Jews had a new king.

The Messiah was born.

"It's the beginning of a new era", they said.

"We must go and worship him."

How come those Gentile astrologers understood the meaning of that star while nobody else did?

No doubt these wise men were really smart, but it wasn't their smarts that helped them here.

No doubt they had studied the stars for years with their charts of the heavens -- they knew how to read events in the stars. But it wasn't this knowledge that helped them here.

If you were to ask these men how they knew that that bright star in the east meant the Jewish Messiah, they'd tell you they weren't just studying astrology all these years, they were seeking for something beyond the heavens.

**They could see what others could not because their eyes had been opened by God.**

There is such a thing as "seeing the light". "He saw the light", we say almost jokingly of some ruined man who's finally figured out how to stay sober, after wasting years of his life on skid row

.But if we took the trouble to get to know this man, we'd discover that's exactly what happened to him. This guy got a glimpse at what the wise men saw. He saw the light and it changed his life.

Only God knows our hearts. We can't judge each other.

But it's a simple fact that in most of our churches - some people see the light and others don't.

Once you see the light, there's no way you can be casual about it.

It gets hold of you.

It moves you and shakes you.

Even if you try to push it aside and turn your back on it, it haunts you until you get on your camel, so to speak, like those wise men and start riding toward the light.

On the other hand, if you don't see the light, then this is just "church" or "Christianity".

It's a nice thing to do, it's a nice thing to believe, but no big deal. "I'll go if I feel like it and if I don't, I won't."

And really, why should you get excited if spiritually all you see in front of you is a gray mist.

So what is it that causes some people to see the light while others see nothing?

How come the wise men saw it and the scholars of Israel didn't?

Some time later there was this man, Nicodemus. He was impressed by the things Jesus was saying and doing. He knew God was at work in this prophet from Nazareth. But he still couldn't figure it out. So, Nicodemus came to Jesus by night searching for answers. And Jesus told him the one thing he needed to know.



***“Unless one is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”***

*John 3:33*

“If you want to see who I am and what I'm about, you've got to get a new set of eyes, and you'll only have these new eyes when God's Spirit is living inside you.”

Now there are those who claim that some people are predestined to have vision while others are not. “The Spirit opens some eyes and leaves others to stumble around in their blindness.” In other words, “If you can't see the light, it just means that you're not one of the elect. Too bad for you!”

**No** -- just as surely as God desires all to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, he desires that all should have eyes to see.

God doesn't want a single one of us left out.

**That's why the child was born: to give us eyes.**

***"I have come as light into the world that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness."***

*John 12:46*

***"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.***

***He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind."*** --

*Luke 4:18*

**-- To give us eyes!**

His Spirit is among us now to give us eyes.

But whether it's the wise men, Nicodemus, or you or I....

There are four things we have to do if we want God to open our eyes -- and give us light.

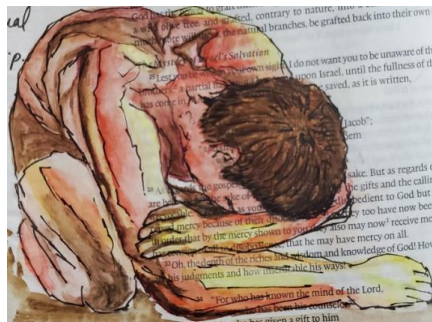
If we want light, we're going to have to;

- 1. Ask for it**
- 2. Believe for it**
- 3. Pursue it**
- 4. Walk in it.**

Now if you're satisfied with things as they are, go ahead and be satisfied.

But if you want light from God....

### **1. Ask for it**



You have to ask for it. You're going to have to ask God to open your eyes. "Fill me with your Spirit, Lord, so I can see!" And even after you get the light, you never stop praying that prayer.

That's what Nicodemus was doing. His heart was crying out for light until he stumbled through the darkness to Jesus. "You need the Spirit", says Jesus. Pretty soon, we see Nicodemus walking with new eyes. Because he asked!

Nobody gets turned away.

Everybody who asks receives.

***"If you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children,  
how much more will the heavenly Father  
give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him."***

*Luke 11:13*

You want light? Ask for it. And keep asking until you know you mean it.

## **2. Believe it**

If you want light, believe it. Believe that God will keep his word to you.

He promised that if you ask for the Holy Spirit, you'll receive the Spirit.



If there is the slightest crack of humility in your soul, the Spirit of God will come to you and open your eyes. Believe it!

Don't go by your feelings.

Don't be waiting for bells to ring and whistles to blow.

Just believe that **God keeps his word** and pretty soon your eyes will open.

The confirmation that you have received what you asked for is that you will begin to see the glory of God right in the midst of the darkness of this world --

-- just like that star.

You will see the presence of the Son of God scattering the darkness of your own heart --

-- just like that star.

Now you're beginning to see the light.

### 3. Pursue it

Pursue the light! The wise men didn't just sit around and admire the star, they went where it told them to go. For the light they were looking for wasn't hanging out there in space -- -- it was right here on earth, waiting for them in Bethlehem, and they pursued it.

**The real light was not the star, but that child.**



The apostle Paul never stopped pursuing the light. "I know Jesus now", says Paul, "but I need to know him better. I need to know him in the power of his resurrection, in the fellowship of his sufferings -- becoming like him in his death." So Paul presses on.

We need to do the same. There's always more ahead.

Once we have the light we keep pressing on for more. And we get more.

***"To him who has will more be given.  
And from him who has not, even that which he has will be taken away."***

There is no such thing as standing still in this business. You're either moving toward the light and getting closer all the time or you're sinking back into the darkness.

### 4. Walk in it.

**Once you have the light, walk in it.**

**The Spirit of the Lord is showing you the way.**



A step of faith he wants you to take.

A change of attitude.

And now it's a matter of doing it. Don't think about it. Don't talk about it -- do it!

### Walk in the light.

Maybe there's somebody you need to get right with.

Maybe you need to stop looking at everybody with a critical eye.

Maybe there's a habit that needs to change.

### God's light is power.

You can do this thing now. Just take that step.

***“This is the message we 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.”***

1 John 1:5-9

**Jesus came to give us eyes to see the light.**

**He came to be our light and guide us away from the darkness.**

**But ask for it, believe it, pursue it, and walk it!**

**The glory of God is already here right in the middle of all this darkness --**



**-- just like that star -- for those who have eyes to see.**

*Message: Richard Bieber... exact date unknown, but most likely 2004*

*Featured Artist: Courtesy and kindness of Suki at [sukisfineart.com](http://sukisfineart.com)*

*Prayer- Holy Lord, like the wisemen may we see and seek your light. Open our eyes and fill us with your Spirit so we can truly see your perfect beauty. Strengthen our belief that we will find you, that we will dwell in your presence, and yes, that your presence will scatter the darkness within us. Lord, give us an overwhelming need to keep pursuing you, to keep pressing in for more of you. And Lord, may we faithfully continue to walk in the light, to choose your ways over the ways of darkness and in that may we see your glory, live in your holy power wherever you lead us. Amen.*

*Maranatha Mirror*



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