

“In Your
light

we see

light”

Psalms 36:9



Highlights

1. Types and causes of darkness
2. What do we see when our eyes are opened?
3. How do we attain enlightenment?



Types and Causes of Darkness



1. The Blind Spot

- A specific area of darkness that can not be seen by the individual usually involves:
 - Motives: Jonah
 - Impact of a certain action: St. Peter in Antioch
 - Attitude
 - Weaknesses: St. John and St. James
 - Recognizing a pattern: Jacob
 - Accepting God's economy: St. Peter with the Lord Jesus
 - Understanding of the spiritual way



2. Spiritual Blindness

- Darkness extends to all of the mentioned areas in addition to emotions, thoughts and direction
- Most common cause is pride (the Pharisees) “They are blind leaders of the blind”

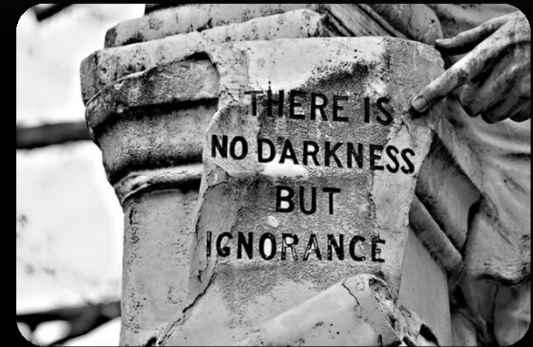
Matthew 15:14

- Untamed passion leads to this blindness,
as well (King Saul, Samson)



3. Absence of the Light ⁽¹⁾

- Ignorance
- Loving the darkness: “And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil” *John 3:19*

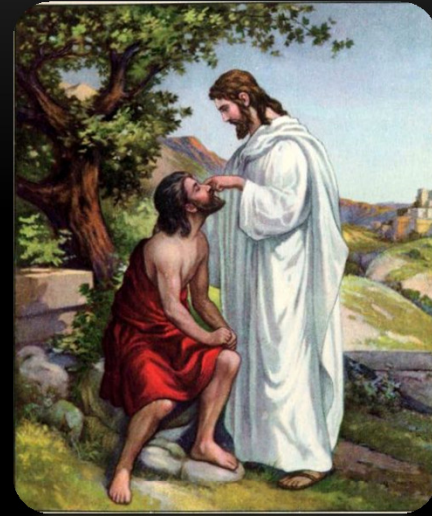


3. Absence of the Light ⁽²⁾

- Hiding from the Light: “For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.” *John 3:20*
- Stop walking in the Light: “Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you” *John 12:35*



**What do we see
when our eyes
are opened?**



1. See ourselves clearly away from any bias, self-pity, or false esteem: “My sins run out behind me, and I do not see them, and today I am coming to judge the errors of another”

St. Moses the Strong

- Recognize our unworthiness

2. See and know God: “Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him”

Luke 24: 31



3. See others, feel their need and share their burdens: “Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.” *Philippians 2:4*



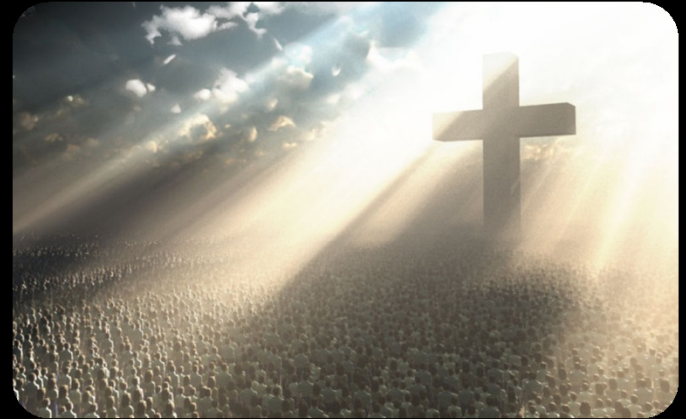
4. See the path being walked upon

5. See beyond the outer appearance of things around us
6. Set our eyes on what is unseen:
“...while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”



2 Corinthians 4:18

How do we attain Enlightenment?



1. Repentance

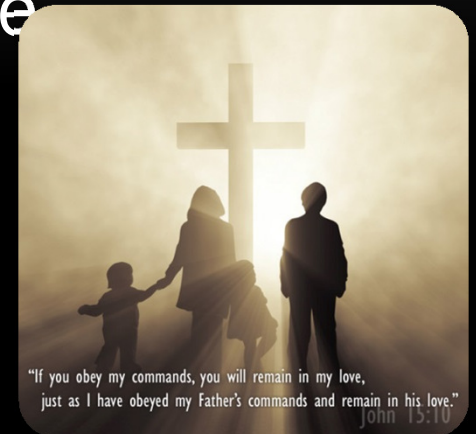
- “The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light” *Romans 13:12*



- This step bestow upon us the power of the Resurrection: “Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.” *Ephesians 5:14*

2. Obedience

- “Obedience is the burial place of the will...Obedience is self-mistrust up to one’s dying day, in every matter even the good” *St. John Climacus*
- It is what helped St. Paul, David, and the man born blind to regain their sight
- Seeking spiritual counsel and the blind spot



3. Sincere love and fellowship

- “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

1 John 1:7

- “He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.” *1 John 2:9 -10*



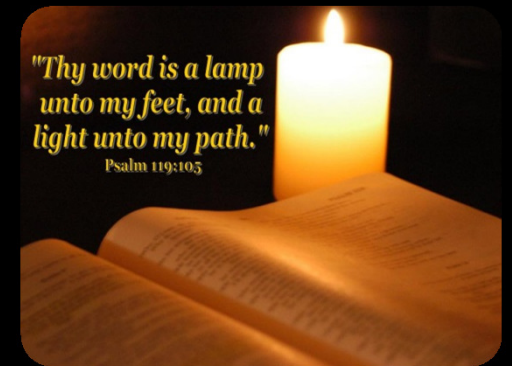
4. The light of the Word of God

- “Your word is a lamp to my feet

And a light to my path.” *Psalm*

119:105

- Reading the word of God should be a continuous effort to know, understand and apply all of what it teaches us.



5. The power of the Mysteries

- The Sacrament of Baptism is called the mystery of Enlightenment
- “Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him”

Luke 24:30-31

