

## “Wake Up! He’s the Light!”

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A man was walking one day in the east end of the city of Glasgow, Scotland. The streets were so narrow, and the houses so high, that little direct sunshine ever reached the houses on one side. The man noticed a ragged, barefooted boy trying, with a small piece of mirror, to catch the sun's rays and direct them to a certain spot on one of the houses opposite.

He became interested in the boy's earnest efforts. "What are you trying to do?" he asked. "Do you see yon window up there?" the boy replied. "Well, my little brother had an accident two years ago, and is always lying on his back in his room, and it's on the wrong side to get the sunshine, so I always try to catch the light in this tiny glass and shine it into his room."

Are we keeping the light of God's love shining in the windows of the world even though sometimes it's very dark? Are we reflecting it so our nation, its people, and the worlds around us may see its light?

Light is great for many things. There are three things light does very well. **Light helps us see**. Light allows us to see the outlines, shapes, and colors you can't see in the dark! Even a small light allows you to find your way in the dark. **Light gives us comfort when things around us are dark**. When you know what's around you, you can be more confident and secure. In this passage, **Light also wakes people up**. The disciples are sleeping and a marvelous light wakes them up! This same light shines in our lives to wake us up and help us to see the glory of God in Jesus Christ!

Open to Luke 9. Peter, James, and John (the inner three), were once again treated to an insider's view on who Jesus is and His ultimate mission. Like the scene in the Garden of Gethsemane, the three are brought by Jesus to a special place to pray. Verses 28—31, *“Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.”*

**Jesus is transformed!** Brilliance shines around Him along with the appearance of Moses and Elijah. There's been some discussion as to why these two particular people show up. Most seem to agree that it's because they were God's Old Testament representatives of the Law and Prophets. They were discussing what would be happening in Jerusalem and Jesus' upcoming death.

**Peter, James, and John saw, but what did they see?** Verse 32, *“Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him.”* The three disciples saw these two pillars of faith from the Old Testament. When they did, **They Saw that Jesus was Connected to Their Past**. Elijah and Moses had talked about Jesus in their prophecies. They both had experienced being in the presence of God! Moses, on Mt. Sinai as he received the Ten Commandments. Elijah, when he thought he was the only one following God when he heard God's “still, small voice.”

All throughout Scripture, we're shown the contrast between light and darkness. For the disciples, seeing the light of Jesus against the darkness around them, **They Saw that Jesus**

**was Connected to Their Future.** When Jesus shines fully, all darkness is chased away. The greatest darkness in the world can't stand against even the tiniest of lights. Our lives can be marked with times of walking in the darkness of our sin, or simply being asleep and ignorant of what's happening around us. God wants us to wake up and open our eyes! It's when Christ shines His light into our life that we can see Him for who He is, the glorious Son of God, the Savior of the world!

**Jesus up the Mountain to be Transfigured and Pray.** While Jesus, along with Peter, James, and John were praying, Jesus, was transfigured. as He spoke to Elijah and Moses. This was an incredible event, and Peter stepped in wanting to stay. Verse 33, *“And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said.”*

When God's light shines brightly in your life, it becomes tempting to simply bask in that glory and remain in His presence. Peter's action, is a typical human response for an incredible experience! Haven't you ever had such a wonderful time somewhere, that you really didn't want to leave it?

Jesus had gone up the mountain to pray with His disciples, but **He came down the mountain to be a Savior!** Jesus never lost His focus on why He came. But He also knew that He had to stay in contact with His Father to be strengthened and prepared for what was ahead.

Turning to God in prayer is so important for strength in your own life. Even as situations arise in your life you don't understand or have trouble knowing what to do next, God has already found a solution. All He needs is for you to be still and listen to Him

So often, we sit in church and are warmed by the light and the presence of God. But there comes a point that the service ends, and we need to take the light with us and **Reflect the Light of Jesus** to everyone around us!

**Verses 34-35**, *“As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him! And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.”*

Much like the cloud of the Lord's presence that guided the Israelites as they escaped the slavery in Egypt, this cloud is significant enough to be “terrifying”. This leads us to believe that this cloud was different in some way. And it was!

A voice from the cloud speaks as the Father announces His love for His Son. The words spoken are the same ones spoken at Jesus' Baptism. This awe-inspiring event left the three disciples speechless.

May our time with God and being in the brilliance of His presence not leave us speechless, but may we shout it from the mountain-tops that Jesus Christ is Lord!

May you let your lifestyle show people the radiant face of someone who knows Jesus, who's praised Jesus, who worships Him, who listens closely to Him and follows him. Show your light, so all might believe, and be radiant too, because of the love of Jesus Christ in them!