

Beyond Morals
into Divine Light

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

Any light detached from the eternal life of God is, at best, moral light. The best moral light can produce is moral integrity, which has not gone through the Cross to be resurrected in eternal life. This is evident in the problems that have surfaced within the Church over the last ten years. The public exposure of failure has revealed the inability of Christians to handle such problems.

Many Christians have a superficial understanding of forgiveness, but never reflect the divine light of God's nature that forgives and forgets. Meanwhile, hundreds of evangelical pastors continue to run each other down. They're born again. They study the Scriptures and preach the Gospel, but they have never understood what it means to go beyond morals into divine light.

God's nature reflects Divine light, but moral light is merely a reflection of the best human

nature has to offer—*created* light, which has its beginning in human integrity. On the other hand, divine light expresses the totality of God's grace. It radiates God's nature and it is the only means by which Jesus Christ's grace can transform a human soul. God's light is *uncreated*—it has no beginning. Its source is the Creator who *is* "from everlasting to everlasting" (Psalm 90:2), and it is the only light that can drive away the darkness from our lives.

Chapter One

THE SUFFICIENCY OF GRACE

“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong” (2 Corinthians 12:9-10).

“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5).

We can only experience the sufficiency of God’s grace through the transformation of our minds—regardless of how much we understand the doctrine of grace. Often, we allow messages from the Word of God to stimulate our intellect, but fail to allow uncreated light to transform our human nature. Created light can never trans-

form human nature. We may memorize Scriptures and go to five Bible studies a week only to be stimulated but never transformed. Scripture that is detached from Jesus Christ's eternal life will never produce divine light in the soul; it is merely knowledge.

God declared, in 2 Corinthians 12:9, "My strength is made perfect in weakness." To the natural mind, this may not seem to make sense. Yet, the Spirit-filled believer understands that grace and strength *are* made perfect in our weakness because in our weakness, we depend upon the Lord. My weakness cannot hinder His immutable grace and strength, but it will reveal the nature of His divine light in me.

God's grace is *sufficient* to ward off danger and to bring in contentment, confidence, and overwhelming satisfaction. Satan cannot stand to hear grace expressed, let alone *see* it revealed in someone's life.

"In weakness" is *asthenia*, a feminine noun in the dative case of advantage. This word refers to incapacity, poverty, failure, inability, and deficiency. It is used to describe someone who is physically weak or someone who lacks understanding. Yet, God's strength is made perfect in human weakness, because, in Christ *is* life, and

His life is the light of men; In God's light, there is no darkness—at all.

When I receive His light, there is no darkness to cause emotional problems. There is no darkness to make me react when I'm the innocent party in a difficult marriage. There is no fear, no insecurity, no apprehension, and no anxiety. God's strength is made perfect and His grace is sufficient. It goes beyond my sin, it wards off danger, bringing in light that reaches far beyond any of my problems, love that goes beyond knowledge, mercy that rejoices against judgment, and peace that passes understanding.

From Everlasting to Everlasting

“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God” (Psalm 90:2). God has eternal, “uncreated” life in Himself (John 5:26); therefore, He has no beginning.

Many Christians have become stabilized by moral light. They use moral integrity as a standard of righteousness to evaluate themselves, their relationships, their churches, and their families. They remain limited by their natural capacity to “do good.” For their good works to

be acceptable before God, however, they must go through Calvary to have the nature of their morality transformed.

Morality is vital to our society. It preserves national identity and protects individual freedom, personal rights, and property. But when moral light is allowed to replace divine light, it becomes a hindrance to spiritual transformation.

Christians must be challenged to live in spiritual light—going beyond inspiring messages, stimulating thoughts, and scriptural beatitudes. When a crisis arises, too many people are quick to make evaluations through moral light, while they call it integrity. Weeks later, they are still discussing the situation because they were not transformed by God’s viewpoint, God’s mind, and God’s will.

Unless we live in God’s uncreated light, which issues from His uncreated life, it is impossible for us to experience His unconditional love. Uncreated light reveals that God, who has no beginning and no ending, saw us as spotless and blameless before the foundation of the world.

Chapter Two

CONFRONTING THE DARKNESS

“For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the land of the living?” (Psalm 56:13).

“For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness” (Psalm 18:28).

“When his candle shined upon my head, and...by his light I walked through darkness” (Job 29:3).

By God’s light, we walk through depression, insecurity, fear, guilt, and condemnation. God’s uncreated life helps me walk through every moment that I am challenged by the reflection of my old sin nature.

“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works” (2 Corinthians

11:14-15).

As the 20th century draws to a close, Satan is hard at work in the art of deception. He uses demonic smoke screens to obscure and even blind the minds of many believers so they will live in constant defeat. Satan's darkness does not *appear* as darkness. It is another form of spiritual light that is not from God—an energy that works through the old sin nature. People in churches that promote this satanic light live in distortion and ignorance of divine light; therefore, they cannot be quickened and renewed according to the Word of God.

A woman testified that she had lived with the *knowledge* of how to be delivered for nearly fifteen years, but had never experienced deliverance. Because she suffered from emotional problems, she went to a Christian psychologist who diagnosed her with “situational anxiety.” Now, even though her problem had a name, she still could not find deliverance. She felt defeated in everything she tried to do. Then one day, while listening to our radio broadcast, she received victory.

“I heard a statement about the danger of putting precedence on moral light over spiritual light, and the whole thing just broke,” she said.

“For fifteen years, I had been interpreting moral light as spiritual light, and I lived in total defeat. There was so much guilt and condemnation. But now, hallelujah, I have never felt so free in all my life! I am a transformed woman.”

Discerning the Devil's Light

No one can discern Satan's work as an angel of light without the light of God's Word and the Holy Spirit. Many Christians continually fail in the details of life and never define their problem; they're being outmatched by the angel of light.

Peter was no match for the angel of light when he tried to talk Jesus out of going to the cross. Jesus rebuked Peter, saying, “Get thee behind me, Satan.” He knew the source of Peter's counsel and would not entertain it.

Just like Peter, we are no match for the angel of light. We try to save ourselves and others from suffering and from the Cross. Through acts of self-preservation, we manipulate and scheme, determined to rationalize our way through these things with moral light.

The Confounded Accuser

Satan despises the fact that Jesus will not listen to one accusation against the Christian. In

Zechariah 3:1-5, Satan had the goods on Joshua the high priest, who was clothed with the dirty, filthy garments of sin. As the devil brought the evidence of Joshua's sins before the throne, the Lord rebuked the accuser and kicked him out. The Lord wouldn't listen to a single word against Joshua.

I don't read anything about Joshua repenting *before* he received his new garments. Oh, how that must upset some right-wing fundamentalists who live in moral light! God covered Joshua with uncreated light. He saw the high priest as faultless. Spiritual light took supremacy over moral light.

God is not giving us a license to sin, but He is showing us how to be rightly related to Him in divine light. With this kind of provision available, only a fool would want to live in sin.

Chapter Three

LIVING BY LIGHT, NOT BY THE LETTER

“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life” (2 Corinthians 3:5-6).

Among all the trees in the garden of Eden, God created two distinct trees: the Tree of Life, reflecting divine light, and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, reflecting moral light.

The Tree of Knowledge represented divine information about good and evil. God never intended for us to eat from this tree—not even the “good” part—because He knew we would use it to measure and compare ourselves with one another.

The good side of the Tree of Knowledge represents scriptural knowledge expressed in the

letter that kills. The first thing the letter produces is pride, a satanic spirit that causes a person to exalt himself above others.

The second thing the letter without the Spirit produces in a person is human good—the demonstration of moral light (or moral integrity). The person living in moral light is self-righteous, always conscious of how he—and others—are doing, in relation to the letter of the law. He goes about establishing his own righteousness because he is ignorant of divine righteousness (Romans 10:3).

Who did this? Who didn't do that? Who failed? These are questions asked by people who live in moral light at the Tree of Knowledge. In its production of relevant righteousness, moral light always measures human personalities, attributes, and works. Detached from God's uncreated light, it repudiates unconditional love.

Putting Away the Past

Someone once said, "My problem is that my past is between me and God." Don't get God into it. He can't remember your past. The problem of your past is between you and yourself.

When a person goes to a social worker or a counselor and begins to relate to the past, he's

dealing with something that God refuses to get involved with. He is living in moral light, which had its origin in the Fall of Adam and is constantly revived through various complexes in the soul, and through the reflection of the memory.

A Christian who is confessed up-to-date, reflecting God's nature in uncreated light, has no consciousness of sin (Hebrews 10:2). Without the consciousness of sin, there can be no condemnation (Romans 8:1). And without condemnation, there can be no guilt, because the conscience has been purged by the blood of Jesus Christ through the eternal Spirit (Hebrews 9:14). Absent from guilt, the conscience is free to function in the reflection of God's nature instead of being occupied with human nature.

Divine light cannot remember one sin I've committed, once I have repented, because the power of eternal life produces uncreated light and reveals unconditional love. God's unconditional love goes beyond knowledge, revealing mercy that rejoices against judgment and peace that passes understanding. When I accept Christ's Finished Work as a recipient of God's grace, God establishes me in a new position with Jesus. In this position, I am a new creation in Christ, complete in Him and seated in heav-

enly places with my past gone forever.

If a Christian has divine light illuminating his capacity for human life, he will never feel guilty. Even something that happened ten minutes ago is gone from God's sight the moment I rebound. It's forgiven and forgotten.

I must agree with God about my sin—He's cast it behind His back, out of His sight forever (Isaiah 38:17). In the eternal "is," God sees me in the light of His uncreated life, blameless before Him in love. Now, I can't remember the failures of yesterday or last week. There is nothing left to be counseled for. The only way I can recall my past is through the reflection of my human nature—detached from God's divine nature—under the dominion of moral light.

Living as New Creatures

Many Christians refuse to live in what God says they are—new creatures. 2 Corinthians 5:17 *doesn't* say, "...old things will *some day* pass away, after I've been counseled about how bad my mother and father were and about what my uncle did to me secretly when I was nine years old." No. It says, "old things *are* passed away"—now.

Ungodly counsel will never deliver you. A

counselor can only help you understand the circumstances you're living in. Discovering all those things may make you feel good, but it will not make you a new creature in your experience. You will still be an old dishrag, going through the same old problems with the same old Adam controlling you. You will end up playing the same old games, feeling guilty in your moral light and moral integrity as you continue living in the effects of things that you have already confessed. God took care of those things. Though you're free, you still refuse to accept your freedom. This, dear friends, is unbelief.

“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.” This may sound like elementary preaching to some, but not one in 15,000 Christians experience this reality twenty-four hours a day.

Old things are passed away. They are gone; they're dead and buried, removed from God's omniscience and omnipresence. Omnipotence—God's 'all power'—overruled His knowledge of sin, removing the very thought of it. The 'all power' of God crucified our sins in the flesh of Jesus Christ, removed every sin we would ever commit, and buried them forever.

We are hid with Christ in God. We are seated above with Him. Every moment, everything

about us is brand new. When we fail, we instantly confess our sin and accept absolute forgiveness. God immediately forgets it. As we agree with Him, we can't remember it either, because uncreated life, uncreated light, and unconditional love indwell us.

Wouldn't it be better to live this way, rather than to go on for years, striving in partial victory?

Chapter Four

THE WORD GIVES LIGHT

“The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple” (Psalm 119:130).

“The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!” (Matthew 6:22-23).

Through God’s uncreated light, His grace shines in my heart. I am able to understand God in me and experience Christ’s words. But if my eye isn’t single, then my whole body will be filled with darkness—even if I’m a pastor. My eye must receive only God’s light. Any other light is darkness and “how great is that darkness!” It may produce morality, but not spirituality. Many people who are morally good are spiritually carnal. All of their righteousnesses

are as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6), but no one ever discovers it. They go to church and live their lives thinking they are really “somebody” because of the things that they *don't* do.

It's very easy for a moral person to use Scriptures to argue about how right he is and how wrong everyone else is. But he's talking out of a light that's turned into darkness—detached from grace, love, mercy, and forgiveness. If I refuse to extend the grace I have received to others, then I am not a good steward of that grace and I'm living in darkness. I must allow mercy to rejoice against judgment. If I know anyone after the flesh, then I am living in the pride of life. This stimulates the lust of my eyes, where demon influence persuades me to live in the lust of my flesh in an educated, religious, evangelized Adam.

Can you remember what someone has done to you in the past week? If you can, then you're living in darkness, just as the pagans and the heathen do. It's not Finished Work. It's not grace. It's not mercy. It's not love. And it's not divine light.

Jesus Christ fulfilled the law (Matthew 5:17); He is the end of the law to everyone who believes (Romans 10:4). Therefore, I am no longer

obligated to live under a moral law. I come under a higher law—the law of righteousness, which has been fulfilled in me (Romans 8:4). Because Christ paid for my sins, sin is no longer an issue. Though I still have an old sin nature, I can accept the law of perfect righteousness. Then, when I experience fellowship with God through the entrance of His Word, the Word becomes a light unto my path and lamp unto my feet. Now, by light, I can walk through darkness, because the ‘letter’ is not detached from God’s light in me.

From Conviction to Conversion

When I live in brokenness and humility, I give Jesus Christ an opportunity to begin an eternal work in me through uncreated life. God always brings in tremendous conviction before there’s a transforming conversion.

Job displayed striking maturity and integrity in his first two trials, but in his third trial, he was overwhelmed by his three self-righteous friends. When he reacted, Job was righteous according to the ‘letter,’ but detached from God’s life. At the good side of the Tree of Knowledge he became self-conscious of his innocence. But one day, Job came to the light and said, “I abhor my-

self, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6). He realized that God *in* him was light.

Isaiah had been a preacher for fifty-two years, but he never understood spiritual light until God gave him a vision of Jesus Christ high and lifted up, on the throne (Isaiah 6:1). The seraphim were singing, "Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts" (Isaiah 6:3). Then, in the light of conviction, Isaiah said, "Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am man of unclean lips" (Isaiah 6:5). He wept. He had been morally good, practicing patriotism for 52 years. But God's light didn't leave Isaiah there—condemned, guilty, and unqualified because of his past. No, Isaiah's sin was purged away.

"Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said [Isaiah], Here am I; send me" (Isaiah 6:6-8).

Without any reservations or any probationary period, the Lord commissioned Isaiah. It was a transforming experience with uncreated light,

a light that brings in God's life so God's love can be experienced. When I receive light from God, I never judge or compare myself with others, because divine light humbles *me* before God. Then I instantly become a candidate to do His work.

When we draw near to the light, we, too, can see Jesus Christ high and lifted up. We see His perfect holiness and righteousness. At first, we may be conscious of our sinfulness and confess, as Habakkuk did, "my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble" (Habakkuk 3:16).

But the next three verses reveal Habakkuk's faith in the uncreated light of God:

"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places" (Habakkuk 3:17-19).

After witnessing a miracle catch of fish in Luke 5:6, Peter fell down in awe at Jesus' feet. In the presence of the "light of the world" and the

Holy Spirit's conviction, Peter said to Jesus, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord" (Luke 5:8). After Peter denied Christ, in Matthew 26:69-75, Jesus recommissioned him to preach the Word, never once making an issue of Peter's sin. With Jesus, love was the issue, because uncreated light always ushers in God's unconditional love. It wasn't what Peter had done, but what he had failed to receive—unconditional love.

Paul cried out, in Romans 7:24, "O wretched man that I am!" He had lived according to the law in moral light after he was saved, only to come to the conclusion that he was wretched. But later, when Paul's heart was rooted in divine light, he had a revelation of truth and proclaimed, "No condemnation" (Romans 8:1).

The great 18th century preacher Jonathan Edwards cried out to God often in the last two years of his life, "I see my sin when I preach and even when I pray." But rather than live in defeat, he drew near the light and constantly received God's uncreated life.

Hudson Taylor said that "Even when I do my best, I'm just living in refined sin." Then, he proclaimed, "Thank God for the grace that doesn't remember!"

These great men of God experienced awesome conviction as they drew closer to the light. But they also experienced the tremendous work of God's mercy and grace. The Spirit liberated their souls and they realized that God's grace is sufficient in every detail.

Chapter Five

ORIENTATION TO LIFE

God will not measure us by anything but His own gift, His own mercy, and His own grace. He will not deal with anything according to moral light. We are measured only according to how we respond to His life and light.

When knowledge possesses us *without* God's light, we end up living in the Christian paradise of salvation without the grace of God transforming our minds. But, when Jesus Christ possesses us and takes over our hearts, then we learn proper orientation to life.

Jesus wants to teach each of us to orient to His life. God sees us in His Son, who is the Light of the world. "Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty. Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain" (Psalm 104:1-2). God sends forth His light and His truth

to lead us (Psalm 43:3). Ecclesiastes 11:7 says, “Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold.”

Our eyes must behold His light. Many Christians try to “borrow” light and life through the influence of people they are attracted to. But it doesn’t work that way. If you need exercise, you don’t send someone to the gym in your place and expect to receive the benefits of a workout. Likewise, if you want to benefit from God’s life, you have to draw near to His light, personally.

Truth can’t be borrowed. We must buy it through the Cross, through faith, and through submission to Jesus Christ’s words by grace through faith (Proverbs 23:23). His strength will meet you in your weakness where God reveals His quality of light, His energy of life, and His nature of love.

Stay at the Tree of Life

Even in the midst of our weakness, we can live in God’s presence without the consciousness of sin. His light sets us free. We have been made clean through the Word of God and delivered into the Kingdom of His dear Son. We now have God’s power, nature, and character work-

ing inside of us.

Never allow yourself to become detached from the God who is in you. Stay at the Tree of Life; don't go back to the Tree of Knowledge. Forget information that doesn't have Finished Work life. Don't discuss knowledge that is detached from Finished Work grace. Problems should always be met with Finished Work power. Whatever you express, let it be totally released in Jesus Christ's Spirit and the inner working of His grace.

There's no need for a believer to feel inferior or insecure. Human support programs will never meet our needs. As the living God reveals His light in you, any weakness or frailty can be overcome. In the presence of His light and love, darkness cannot hinder you at all.

When the sun comes up in the morning, it doesn't create anything new. It simply reveals what was always there during the night. When God's light shines into circumstances and trials, we think something new is being revealed, but the light is just revealing what was already there in our lives. The troubled marriage, the friendship that's dissolving, the problems in church—none of these things are almighty. God is Almighty, and He will not spare the existence of

any hint of darkness, even that which clothes itself in moral light.

“If God is all-powerful, then why am I feeling so bad?” you may be tempted to ask. The answer is that you aren’t allowing the light of God’s power to free you from your darkness. You prohibit His light from doing its work through self-occupation at the Tree of Knowledge that draws you away from the Tree of Life.

The Word of God had an entrance in your soul. You have received His light and His love. Let them flow richly, and don’t allow circumstances or people to alter the single eye of life that is in you.

The more we receive life, power, and peace through divine light, the more God’s strength is being made perfect in us. As we grow in godliness, we can have fun reflecting His divine nature. Every trial gives us an opportunity to reflect Him. In our weakest state, we find His strength, for only then do we allow divine light to truly reveal God’s character and nature in our lives.

CONCLUSION

Some people will refuse to receive this message, because it removes the option of worldly counsel, it exposes adamic support systems, and challenges people to get into the Book and depend upon God.

All power in heaven and in earth belongs to Jesus Christ. He's living in us, so we don't need demoralized humanists telling us how to get rid of guilt, insecurity, and fear. God's almighty power is inside of us. His wisdom is from above, producing peace, gentleness, meekness, and purity in us. We don't need human help to find victory. We are overcomers through Christ who strengthens us. Praise Him, for His grace is all-sufficient.

Christ is the end of the law, and we are under the government of grace (Romans 6:14). We are hid with Christ in God, so the wicked one cannot touch us (1 John 5:18). We are seated above principalities, powers, and demons (Eph-

esians 2:6), so we can enjoy the blessings of eternal life that produce divine light, enabling us to live in His love at all times.