

SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT

VBS SUNDAY. John 8:12

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. June 28, 2026.

More teaching resources are available here: www.famousgod.com/groups

JOHN 8:12

Today's teaching is based on our Vacation Bible School theme verse:

John 8:12 (CSB) Jesus spoke to them again: "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life."

Jesus was teaching about spiritual enlightenment.

- He made a contrast between darkness and light to illustrate spiritual reality.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OF JESUS'S WORDS?

Jesus was at the Festival of Shelters (Leviticus 23:33-43).

- A seven-day festival in Jerusalem.
- It was September/October in 32 AD.

The purpose of the festival was:

- Gratitude for the harvest.
- Remembering God's protection and provision during Israel's forty years in the desert. God was with the nation all that time.

Two big events during the festival:

- The water ceremony because God provided water in the desert.
- The light ceremony. God led the people by a column of fire in the desert.

That's why Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world" (John 8:12).

- Just as God was Israel's light in the desert, so Jesus is Light for the world.
- Why? Because he is God; he is our spiritual light.

WHAT IS THE DARKNESS JESUS SPOKE ABOUT?

Jesus was talking about spiritual darkness. Spiritual darkness is the absence of God in our lives. Three aspects:

- Darkness from not knowing enough about God. That's an information problem. The solution is to learn more about God. We can help with that.
- Darkness from not understanding what we know about God. That is a comprehension problem. The solution is to ask for help.
- Darkness from rejecting what we know about God. That's an attitude problem. We'll talk about the solution in a moment.

Some people in the crowd that day rejected Jesus.

- Because they lived in spiritual darkness, they said things like:

John 7:20 (CSB) "You have a demon!" the crowd responded.

John 8:13 (CSB) So the Pharisees said to him, "You are testifying about yourself. Your testimony is not valid."

- They understood that he was claiming to be God.

WHAT IS THE LIGHT JESUS SPOKE ABOUT?

Jesus was talking about spiritual light. It is the presence of God in our lives.

- Jesus is the Light in the sense that he is God; the same God who led Israel.
- Living in the Light is the same as embracing God in Jesus.

The word “follows” in John 8:12 is significant.

- It means to follow Jesus as his disciple.
- Anyone who commits to Jesus as God, to learn and apply his teachings, comes out of spiritual darkness and into spiritual light and life; life from God.

John 12:46 (CSB) I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me would not remain in darkness.

- Jesus is the difference between darkness and light in our lives.

Colossians 1:13 (CSB) God has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.

- When we turn to Jesus to follow him, we ... *“turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God...”* (Acts 26:18, CSB).

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH JESUS?

Jesus is the source of spiritual enlightenment.

- Will you find out more about Jesus? Talk to Pastor Peter. Visit the Book Table.
- Will you reject Jesus? Do you know why? Want to talk about it? Talk to Pastor Peter.
- Will you follow him? We can help you with that. Talk to Pastor Peter.

The late, great, Billy Graham talked about coming into the Light:

“As a teenager, I was spiritually dead—purposeless and empty-hearted, restless and resentful even with all our Bible reading and churchgoing... Then ... one night at church I walked forward to commit my life to Jesus Christ, I did it on purpose, with intention. No bells went off, no signs flashed; I simply felt at peace—quiet, happy and peaceful. That commitment has transformed me to this day; I’ve never been the same.” Billy Graham Library

PERSPECTIVES ON ENLIGHTENMENT

The Bible speaks honestly about spiritual darkness—but it celebrates the far greater power of God’s light. Spiritual darkness is not just a bad mood or a rough season. It is a state of separation from God, where minds are blinded to His truth and hearts drift toward self, sin, and idolatry (Ephesians 4:17–18; 2 Corinthians 4:3–4). In darkness, we stumble without true direction, call evil good and good evil, and live alienated from the God who made us (Isaiah 5:20; Colossians 1:21).

But into this darkness, God has shone a decisive, saving light. Jesus Christ stands at the center: “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12). God rescues sinners “from the domain of darkness” and transfers them into the kingdom of His beloved Son (Colossians 1:13–14). To come into the light is first to come to Christ Himself—to repent and believe the good news of His death and resurrection (Mark 1:14–15; John 12:35–36).

Practically, stepping into the light means bringing our darkness into the open before God. We stop hiding. We confess our sins and trust His promise that “if we walk in the light... the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7–9). Then, as people who have been “called... out of darkness into his marvelous light,” we learn to walk daily as children of light—shaped by His Word, strengthened by His Spirit, and shining with His goodness in a dark world (1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 5:8–10).

More Information

For more information about Jesus and spiritual enlightenment, please speak to Pastor Peter or visit our Book Table for resources to guide you.

Written with AI assistance.