



# Jesus the Light

Finding Spiritual Enlightenment in Christ

I am the  
**light of the world.**  
Anyone who follows me will  
**never walk in the darkness**  
but will have the **light of life.**

# Three Questions for Enlightenment



## 1. The Background

Setting the scene  
in first-century  
Jerusalem.



## 2. The Darkness

Understanding  
the fundamental  
absence of God.



## 3. The Light

Embracing the  
presence of God  
in Christ.

# Setting the Scene: Jerusalem, 32 AD

## Event

The Festival of Shelters  
(Leviticus 23:33-43)

## Duration

Seven days in September  
or October.



## Purpose 1

Gratitude for the fall  
harvest.

## Purpose 2

Remembering God's  
protection and provision  
during Israel's forty years  
of wandering in the desert  
before entering the  
Promised Land.

# The Visual Metaphor of the Festival



## The Desert

God guided the nation by a cloud during the day and a column of fire during the night. The fire was God's physical presence with His people.

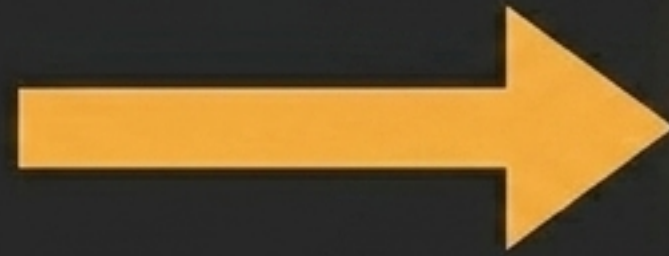


## The Temple

To remember this, four massive 40-foot candelabras were lit in the temple courts. The light was so bright it could be seen all over the city.

**Core Truth: God's presence is light.**

# The Bold Claim



Jesus went up to Jerusalem during this exact Festival (John 7:14).

He taught in the very same temple courtyard where the massive candles were burning.

By claiming "I am the Light of the world," Jesus was claiming to be the fulfillment of that physical fire. He was claiming to be God—present with us as our spiritual light.



# Defining Spiritual Darkness

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Spiritual darkness is not simply a list of bad behaviors.  
It is the fundamental absence of God in our lives.

# The Spectrum of Spiritual Darkness

The State	The Core Problem	The Reaction	The Solution
Ignorance	Information	"I don't know enough"	Learn (Attend church)
Confusion	Comprehension	"I don't understand"	Ask for help (Seek resources)
Hostility	Attitude	"You have a demon!" (John 7:20) / "Your testimony is not valid." (John 8:13)	Surrender (Stop walking away)

# Defining Spiritual Light

Spiritual light is the active presence of God in our lives. Living in the Light is the exact same thing as embracing God in Jesus.

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

# The Anatomy of Following

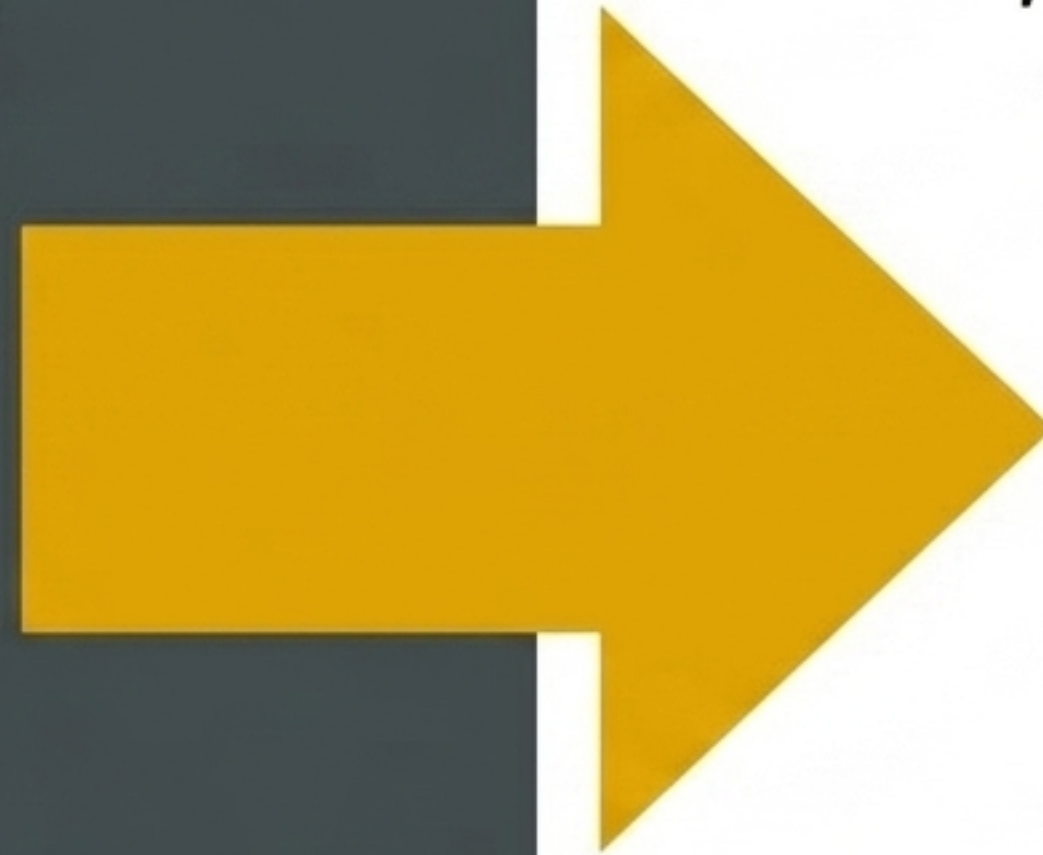
Jesus said, "Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness..."



# The Great Transfer

## The Old Reality

- The Domain of Darkness
- The Power of Satan
- The Absence of God



## The New Reality

- The Kingdom of the Son
- The Power of God
- The Light of Life

Based on Colossians 1:13 and Acts 26:18

# A Journey Through the Spectrum

## Childhood (The Information Problem)

Attended church, acted in the Nativity play, heard the stories.

**Result:** “I wasn’t hostile, I just didn’t get it. I was in the dark.”

## High School & College (The Attitude Problem)

Despised and mocked Christians in the dorm, debated a visiting pastor. **Deep down motive:** Desired to live free from restraints; didn’t want God interfering.

**Result:** Active, hostile rejection of God.

# The Catalyst for Illumination

## The Catalyst:

A friend shared simple facts about Jesus and offered an invitation to follow Him.

**The Shift:**  
Something inexplicable happened internally. All hostility evaporated.

## The Output:

A sudden, deep desire to know and follow Jesus. He brought me out of darkness into the light.

# Three Responses to the Light

Spiritual enlightenment is found in Jesus. What will you do with Him?

**Path 1: Ignore Him.**  
(Remain in the darkness of missing information).

**Path 2: Reject Him.**  
(Choose the darkness of a hostile attitude).

**Path 3: Follow Him.**  
(Commit, learn, and imitate, stepping into the Light).

# An Invitation to Step Out of the Dark

If you don't fully understand this Christian stuff, you aren't alone.  
If you feel like you are in the dark, or if you are ready to take  
a step toward the light, let's talk.

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Next Step: I will be at the front after the service. Come find me. I  
would love to guide you and point you toward resources that can help.

**“He will do the same for you, if you will follow him.”**