

First, 'd like to say thank you for the opportunity to share a little of my spiritual journey with you via this sermon. As I have traveled through the labyrinth of learning, I've discovered that the closer I walk with Christ, the more I understand that Christ's wisdom exists in multiple forms, in sacred books, secular songs and sidewalk graffiti. God is truly speaking to us all the time- through Buddha, the Bible, even a catchy tune on your playlist. So there's a bit of everything in this little message - as Creation Spirituality practitioner, Matthew Fox, would say "there are many rivers that flow out from the well of wisdom. This is deep ecumenism!" So, here we go!

Throughout history, sacred and secular texts speak to us about light - its power, its beauty, its ability to dispel the darkness.

From the prophet Isaiah: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you!

From Christ Jesus: You are the light of the world!

From Yogi Bajan: Travel light, live light, spread light, be the light

Christ followers are instructed to go out into the world and share the light, put our candles in a candlestick to light the house, hang our lanterns at the gate to light the way. Even Motel 6 will "leave the light on for you" according to its classic ad campaign.

So, what does it mean to "Be the light"?

In researching scripture, the word "light" appears almost 300 times.

The word "darkness" appears about 180 times. These two words appear side by side almost as many. Light and darkness have a very interesting relationship that began eons ago, probably with the triggering of the Big Bang by the Big Alpha and Omega!

In the beginning, Genesis says, there was darkness, wind, and water. Pretty basic building blocks for a universe, but not much to see. So, God says "let there be light, and there was light". Just like that - or perhaps millenia - time is relative for the omnipotent, Just ask Einstein. God saw the light was good.

God called the light Day and the darkness Night. God separated day from night and designated the sun and moon to watch over the earth and her creatures, to guide the seasons and mark time. A structure for humanity to function.

God didn't call the darkness evil, bad, or scary. Those are terms that humans have associated with darkness. After all, some of the most beautiful lights we see -the moon, the stars & planets, meteor showers, the northern lights, are all seen at night and are obliterated to our sight in the brightness of the sun.

Truly, from a scientific perspective, darkness is merely the absence of light.

Physics.stackexchange.com states "Darkness occurs when there are no or very little photons present. When you turn on a lamp, the photons from the lamp bounce all over the room, and thus, the darkness disappears. Absence of light doesn't exist where there is presence of light."

So God called the light into being - activating the photons of the universe - lighting the lamp!

Today's scripture says "Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide with wonder and belief, your body fills up with light" The darkness within you is dispelled. The ESV version of this scripture states "The eye is the lamp of the body, so if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light".

Your eyes are receptors - made to take in light so that our brains can "see" what exists around us. The eye cannot receive darkness. And I believe this applies to our spiritual vision and our energy body, our everlasting soul, if you will. This sacred light of the Holy Spirit is not limited by our physical body or eye, rather, it magnifies and multiplies, like ripples on the water.

The Q'ero people of Peru, descendants of the ancient Inka, have a name for sacred light - Sami - light energy. That which comes from all of the beings in the cosmos to bless us. Made by the great Creator of all to be utilized in healing ourselves and the planet.

The Q'ero also have a name for the opposite of Sami, but it isn't darkness or evil, it's heaviness. Hucha - that which we carry inside us that must be let go and fed to the earth, so that it may be composted and released back into the cosmos as Sami once more.

This is sacred recycling! If we can let go of the heavy energy in our lives, we make room for more light. And even better, this heavy energy can move into the dark of the earth, where so much beauty and creation goes on unseen. Like the roots connecting the trees, the sprout from the tiny seed and the worms digesting decay and producing rich soil, good things happen in the dark, but all must be brought into the light to come to fruition.

The Scripture goes on to say that "if you live squinty eyed in greed and distrust, your body is a dank cellar. If you pull the blinds on your windows, (your eyes), what a dark life you will have." There may be much potential in the darkness, but it requires light and energy to activate it. If you close your eyes to the magnificent light that you are, the light cannot get inside you.

Jesus told Simon Peter, we are to gather people into the light. We are made to be conduits for the light of Truth and Christ, and we can tap into that energy when we stop clinging to all the things the world tells us are important - money, stuff, social status - the things that weigh us down and lay heavy on our hearts - greed, anger, hatred.

Those treasures on earth will fade, break, collapse with the stock market. Dependent on interest rates, the federal reserve, the political climate. Our treasures in heaven - love, compassion, justice, forgiveness, healing - have no dependency on the things the ego self considers important in this world.

One of my favorite lessons in A Course in Miracles is number 75 "The light has come" Let me share a few lines from this powerful lesson.

"The light has come. You are healed and you can heal. The light has come. You are saved and you can save. You are at peace, and you can bring peace with you wherever you go. Darkness and turmoil and death have disappeared. The light has come."

“We do not want to see the ego’s shadow on the world today. We see the light, and in it we see Heaven’s reflection lie across the world.”

“The light has come. You have forgiven the world. Realize that your forgiveness entitles you to vision. Understand that the Holy Spirit never fails to give the gift of sight to the forgiving”.

And when we possess spiritual sight, when the eye is truly singular in its focus upon the true nature of ourselves and our sisters and brothers (basically everyone), then we can accept and be filled with the Light of God’s Love.

To be the light is to do our best to share our heavenly treasures with our fellow human beings without calling attention to ourselves, to give of our earthly treasures with joy and humility, to walk in the world without being bound by its illusions of power and domination. To love others and gather them into the light without shouting about it on the street corner or posting it on social media.

In the words of evangelist Dwight L. Moody “ we are told to let our light shine, and if it does, we won’t need to tell anybody it does. Lighthouses don’t fire cannons to call attention to their shining - they just shine”.

Jesus said: Freely you have received, freely give. There’s no price tag on the gifts we receive from God. And they stay with us forever. And they are infinitely abundant.

So, flip that switch, light that candle, turn on the beam. There’s a whole world out there waiting for your illumination!

May it be so!