

Our Shining Savior, Part 1 by Laura Shaw

"...I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

What do you think of when you think of the word "light"? As a noun, I mean...not a diet adjective. Some people think of the sun or electricity...some think of brightness and joy. Webster's very first definition of light says *"something that makes vision possible."*

What do you think of when you think of the word "darkness"? Some people think of nighttime, others think of depression or sadness, many think of sin and temptation—even the devil. Webster's very first definition of darkness is this: *"devoid or partially devoid of light: not receiving, reflecting, transmitting, or radiating light."*

The Bible discusses light and darkness in the same sentence many times. *John 1:5* says, *"The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it."* I'm sure if we were to study it in depth, there would be hundreds of applications of light and darkness as put forth in scripture, but for right now, God has landed me on two: 1.) He is the Light, and 2.) I must walk in the Light. This time we will dwell on Him as the Light.

"You are resplendent with light, more majestic than mountains rich with game." Psalm 76:4

"He wraps Himself in light as with a garment." Psalm 104:2

Every time I hear or worship to the song, *How Great Is Our God* by Chris Tomlin, I get stuck on these words: *"He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide...and trembles at His voice."* I used to picture Him putting on this beautiful cloak of light...now I envision God as Jesus with flesh wrapped around Him in complete light. You see, when Jesus said, *"I am the Light of the world,"* He showed us that God didn't keep all of His light to Himself...He actually brought it down to us by sending His Son, THE Light of the world. This truth is expressed in *2 Corinthians 4:6-7*: *"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."*

This gives me great encouragement, because it means that even though Satan may try to cover our lives with darkness, CHRIST'S LIGHT is shining in our hearts (if we have made Him our Savior)...and the darkness does not understand the light, so it must flee!" WOW! I am in awe of the thought of darkness trying to hide...it comes out and goes, "Peek-A-Boo,"...we show it the Light, and it trembles at His voice, hides and waits for another opportunity. I don't mean that in a playful or flippant way at all...spiritual warfare is serious stuff...this spiritual version of Peek-A-Boo is more of a reality show than a game show, but it is a picture of God's power in us and through us.

This is part of the Good News of the Gospel. *"He is the Light of the world. Whoever follows Him will never walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life."* Let's rejoice. Let's fall on our knees and worship Him AND thank Him for giving us this treasure.

"Father, YOU are resplendent with light...You shine in the darkness, and the darkness cannot understand Your light. Thank you for giving us YOUR light to shine in our hearts through Christ.

We are thankful that this all-surpassing power is from YOU, God, and NOT from us.

We are blessed immeasurably more than we could think or ask...In Jesus' name...Amen."

SOOOO, my friends, here's the hope and the challenge for us:

Isaiah 60:1-2 says it best: **"ARISE, SHINE, FOR YOUR LIGHT HAS COME, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD RISES UPON YOU. SEE, DARKNESS COVERS THE EARTH...BUT THE LORD RISES UPON YOU AND HIS GLORY APPEARS OVER YOU."** ARISE!!! SHINE!!!!