

Our Shining Savior, Part 2 by Laura L. Shaw

"God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with Him, yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin." 1 John 1:5-7 (NIV)

It is a fact, my friends. If we have Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives, then we have THE Light within us. We have the ability to "walk in the Light, as He is in the Light." We can even go as far as to say that we are "children of Light." I didn't make this up...it says in 1 Thessalonians 5:5 that *"You are all sons (& daughters) of the Light and sons (& daughters) of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness."* THAT IS AWESOME! We belong to the day! He hasn't just given us this light for our joy and pleasure, but for a very special purpose. *"For this is what the Lord has commanded us: 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'" (Acts 13:47)* The Light of heaven was given to us to spread the Light around...You know, "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine..."

Unfortunately, that little children's song continues on to a third stanza: "Don't let Satan pffffff it out, I'm gonna let it shine." How can Satan pffffff out our light? Well, when we choose to STEP into the deeds of darkness. There are many ways to do this, but consider these verses:

"The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness." Matthew 6:22-23

"The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature." Romans 13:12-14

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth, and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them."

Ephesians 5:8-11

It pains my heart to think of all the times I have let my eyes bring the dark into my body...and oh, how many times I have succumbed to the fruitless deeds of darkness. It is usually those times when I have let my guard down and have fallen asleep in my relationship with the Lord. With God, there is hope, however. We can count on the fact that HIS LIGHT LIVING IN US WILL NOT STAY DIM FOR LONG...He will draw us to Himself, the Light, our Life, over and over again. The verse above continues, reminding us to expose our sin to our Savior, the Light giver:

"But everything exposed by the Light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: 'Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'" Ephesians 5:13

Ask the Lord today what "deeds of darkness" you need to expose and walk away from this day. Ask Him to guard your eyes, your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Ask Him to wake you up spiritually! Ask Him to help you walk His walk, and talk His talk, for His glory, for the salvation of men and women and children, to lead us all to the Father of Light.

Let 2 Kings 20:3 be said of us:

"O LORD, I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in Your eyes."