

I've been thinking....

About *Light*, not as in the opposite of heavy, but as in that which overcomes darkness. What exactly is *light*, and why are we called to be salt and *light*? In Isaiah, the Lord says He will restore Israel and "make you a *light* for the Gentiles". (Is. 49:6) As to what *light* is; that discussion is far too advanced for me and way above my pay grade. All I know is that *light* is involved in gravity, time, space, and quantum theory, much too complicated and intricate to be dealt with here. That being the case, I will attempt to deal with it in much simpler and more familiar terms, more concerned about what it does than what it is. Suffice it to say, when God said "let there be light" he said far more than most of us could ever understand.

This all started out of the conviction I feel when I consider James 4:17 "anyone who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins". The sins of omission are just as bad as the sins of commission. Sin is sin. When we fail in our duty to produce the good works that we have been said to, our witness suffers and the *light* goes out. It is this flow of power both in and out that produces the *light*. God supplies the power and we must be the conduit through which it flows. The flow is not merely important, it is absolutely essential. It's what life does. It's what *light* does.

Take for example the Dead Sea. Water flows in, but the Dead Sea has no outlet, no flow. This lack of flow makes it one of the world's saltiest bodies of water. At 33.7 % salinity, it is almost 10 times saltier than the ocean. In fact it is so salty that only a few bacteria are able to live in it. No other life forms can be found.

You're probably thinking, I thought you were talking about *light*, but now you seem to be talking about flow. What's going on? Let me assure you I didn't forget. Remember we're thinking about what *light* does, not what *light* is.

As I mentioned earlier, the nation of Israel was called to be a *light* to the Gentiles. God promised to be their God if they would be His people. The blessings promised to the Jews would be fulfilled as long as they followed God's instructions, thereby completing the circuit, creating the flow, and becoming the *Light*. When Israel failed to acknowledge God's authority and sought to worship other god's, the blessings stopped, the curses came, and Israel's *light* went dark. The flow was interrupted.

The principle of flow and *light* being inseparable can also be seen in the natural world. In fact, for me at least, natural things explain a lot about the spiritual world. What is seen paints a picture to help us understand what is unseen.

Consider the common light bulb. By common, I mean the incandescent type, remember those? The light bulb alone cannot produce light. It must be connected to a source of power. That power is not the light, but the bulb bears witness of the power. As long as the power flows the bulb gives light, turn off the power and the light is gone. The flow of electricity is made possible by a thin wire called a filament. This wire is very small and quite fragile, but is

essential to complete the circuit or flow of the power back to its source. If the filament is broken, power still flows to the bulb, but because it cannot travel through it, no light is produced.

Our Christian walk can be compared to the Dead Sea, The Nation of Israel, and the Light bulb. When we know the good we ought to do and don't do it, we break the flow of God's power in us and our light does not shine. As God's love and grace flows into us, we must let it flow out to others. As a matter of fact, the more we give to others the more God can give to us. You can't fill what is already full! We should constantly pour ourselves out in service to God and others. This in my personal conviction, I hope it is yours too.

Walking in the Light
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