

Flames of Faith Ascending Prayers



February 22, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

What an incredible picture this is! It is an actual photo of the Grand Canyon that someone captured and posted. The colors are phenomenal and could only be seen like this for one brief moment as the sun was setting and the angle of the light beams streamed through the atmosphere. The prism of color against the contrast of the shadows make this photo seem surreal.

I imagine that the photographer was stunned by the beauty. I probably would have stood there watching the view as the sun set and the shadows took over until I could no longer see it. Even so, there would be that certain anticipation that in the morning as the earth turns, the light of the sun would chase away the shadows and once again everything would be exposed to the light.

What is revealed to us and through us when we are standing in the light of the Lord is beyond any comparison. When we see Him, we will have no words to describe His beauty. But, we are told that we will be like Him.

**Listen to this from
Psalm 36:5-9.**

**Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens;
And Thy faithfulness reaches unto the clouds.**

**Thy Righteousness is like the great mountains:
Thy judgments are a great deep:
O Lord, Thou preservest man and beast.**

**How excellent is Thy lovingkindness, O God!
Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Thy wings.**

**They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of Thy house;
And Thou shalt make them drink of the river of Thy pleasures.**

**For with Thee is the fountain of Life:
In Thy light shall we see light.**

~



It is extremely difficult to see in the darkness. The Psalm said **“In Thy light shall we see light.”** The Word of God has much to say about the contrast between light and dark but let it suffice to say that **anything that is hiding in the shadow of darkness cannot continue to hide when the light shines upon it.**

When king David was a shepherd caring for his father’s sheep, he was acquainted with the shadows of the valleys around him. He had to be so vigilant to protect the sheep that he even speaks of it in **Psalm 23** when he says of the Lord, **“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for Thou art with me.”** Yes, strange and evil intent hides in the darkness.

When John the Baptist was born, his Father, Zacharias, prophesied about John and about the coming Lord. He said: **Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring, from on high hath visited us,**

To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace (Luke 1:78-79).

The Apostle John spends a great deal of time explaining throughout the Gospel of John that **Jesus is the True Light** that has come into the world. We are warned by the Holy Spirit through the word of God in **Ephesians** to *stay away from the deeds of darkness*. Listen.

Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: Walk as children of Light (Ephesians 5:6-8).

What is the point of this? It’s a warning about walking in the shadows. It’s that dangerous place where you can’t see so good.

When we were kids, we would go into a dark room and see how long it would take for our eyes to adjust to the darkness. Do you remember doing that too? We would stand there in one spot, until we could see just enough to make our way to the light! Problem was, sometimes we had to grope in the darkness trying to feel our way through until our fingertips touched that evasive string that we knew was dangling from the light. But, we know that **walking in the darkness is dangerous.**



The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. But **the way of the wicked is as darkness**: they know not at what they stumble (Proverbs 4: 18-19).

The letter to the Ephesians tells us **not to be deceived by vain words for because of the deeds of darkness the wrath of God is coming.**

He tells us not to be partakers with them. And **have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness**, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever does make manifest is light. Therefore He says, awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light (Ephesians 5: 6-14).

The Lord does not want us to stumble.

He says, **When wisdom enters into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant to thy soul; Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: to deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaks forward (perverse) things; who leaves the path of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness; Who rejoices to do evil, and delights in the forwardness (perversity) of the wicked; Whose ways are crooked, and they are forward (perverted) in their paths (Proverbs 2: 10-15).**

Jesus spoke again unto them saying, **I am the Light of the world: he that follows Me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life (John 8:12).**

This is one reason the writer of Ephesians prays that the **“eyes of our understanding be enlightened.”** The letter to the Ephesians admonishes us from the beginning to the end to realize the battle we are facing **is in the spiritual realm and it is real.**

The **“spiritual realm”** is an interesting term. To our **natural way of thinking**, the **“spiritual realm”** is an invisible faraway place and so it really doesn't exist for most people because they cannot see it. Herein lies one of the problems...the **“spiritual realm” does exist but it simply cannot be seen through natural eyes.**

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness to him; neither can he know them because they are “spiritually discerned” (I Corinthians 2:14).

“Discerned” in the Greek, Strong's #350 and #2919, means distinguished, scrutinized, investigated, interrogated, searched, and discerned. **“The things of the Spirit of God are spiritually discerned” (I Corinthians 2:14).**

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin (I John 1:7).

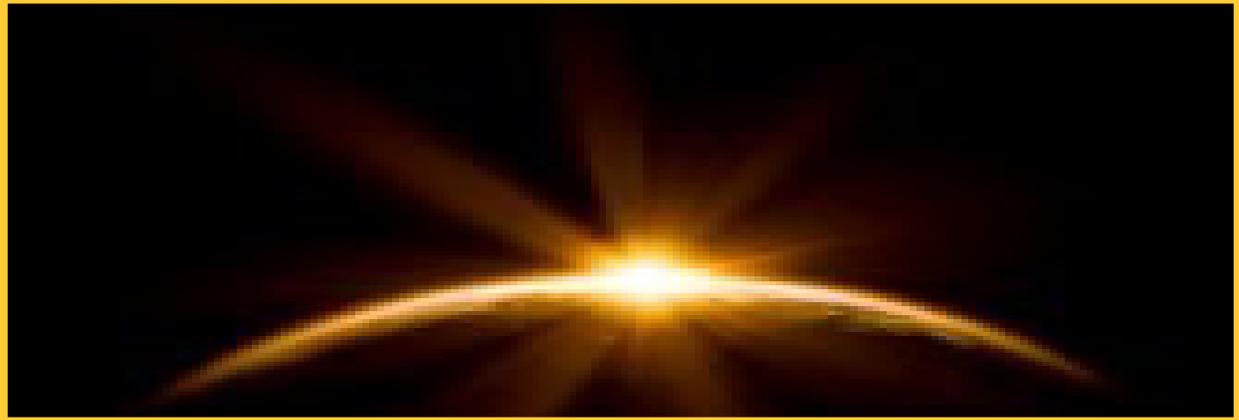
We are told to **walk in the “light.”** Our focus is not to be on the darkness. Our focus is to search for the light...for Jesus. We are not to seek the knowledge of darkness. We are to seek His Kingdom and His righteousness.

It is **Jesus that is far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world but also in that which is to come (Ephesians Chapter 1).**

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God? And that the Spirit of God dwells in you? (I Corinthians 3:16).

Oh, Brothers and sisters, be watchful, be careful what you give your ears to hear because I tell you the truth...

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. For He has made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:17, 21).



This is the truth and anything contrary to this is not the gospel of Jesus Christ.

He has called you out of darkness and into His marvelous light ((I Peter 2:9).

Giving thanks unto the father, which has made us meet (qualified) to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Who has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has translated us into the Kingdom of His dear Son. In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:12-14).

This is the truth that was given to you from the beginning. **Are you “spiritually discerning”** what you are hearing? Are you being built up **in the faith?** The faith that was first given to you to believe on **the Lord Jesus who alone has all power over heaven and earth? (Matthew 28:18).**

Yes, **it is true** that you were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, **yet now has He reconciled, in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in His sight:**

If you continue in the faith grounded and settled and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you have heard and was preached to every creature under heaven (Colossians1:21-23).

Oh my...

I am so full and bubbling over in the Spirit of our Lord at this very moment desperate to reach into your very soul and deposit the powerful truth of our existence in Christ Jesus.

The Apostle John wrote very earnestly to us in one of his shortest letters. It was short but very powerful and he is very earnest in what he is saying.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of Life;

(For the Life was manifested, and **we have seen it**, and bear witness, and we show unto you **that eternal life, which was with the Father**, and was manifested unto us.)

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that **God is Light, and in Him is no darkness at all.** (I John 1:1-5)

This is the truth...I am telling you the truth...

God desires that we have **all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, To the acknowledgment of the Mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ. In Whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. And this I say, lest any man beguile you with enticing words (Colossians 2:2-4).**

As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord so walk ye in Him.

Rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Beware lest any man **spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world and not after Christ.**

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And **ye are complete in Him** which is the Head of all principality and power (Colossians 2:6-10).

The things that hide in the shadows are the forces of spiritual wickedness that the enemy uses to deceive in his attempt to draw away God's children and all men into darkness. I can't seem to let go of **Jude 3**. It is the Lord. Hear His voice.

Beloved, I give all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation. It is needful for me to write unto you and exhort you!

That ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was delivered unto the saints.

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called and has professed a good profession before many witnesses. Keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable unto the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ (I Timothy 6:12,14).

The finale of Ephesians carries us to the place of the whole armour of God. He tells us that we are to **put it on., that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil**. He goes on to say, **For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of the world... against "spiritual wickedness" in high places.**



You are my family. The scripture tells us that we are now citizens of heaven and of God's household. The words of our Lord and King Jesus tells us that while we are in this world, we are NOT of it. Let no one deceive you. If you are in Christ Jesus you are a new creation. Born again with an incorruptible seed. Let me show you just a little more so that you will be encouraged and not beaten down.

You are born again, not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which lives and abides forever (I Peter 1:23).

Verily, verily (I tell you the truth), I say unto you, He that hears My words and believes on Him that sent Me, hath ever-lasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; But is passed out of death unto Life (John 5:24).

And I pray God, that your whole spirit and soul, and body, be preserved blameless unto the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who called you and He also will do it (2 Thessalonians 5:23-24).

Our Lord Jesus who shall also confirm you unto the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 1:8).



But you Brethren, are not in darkness that that day should overtake you as a thief. You are all children of Light, and children of the day: We are not of the night, nor of the darkness (I Thessalonians 5:4-5).

I beg of you as a sister who dearly loves the family of God. Hold fast to your faith in Christ Jesus. Do not follow the voice of any other. This world is passing away but His Words will never pass away. There is salvation in no other.

**In His Light do we see light
Psalm 36:9**

~ Jewells ~



(From the Heart of the Tribe of Reuben)

~Who am I, O' Lord?~

~

Who am I, O' Lord?

**I was conceived in the matrix of my mother's womb.
I existed from time before the time of man,
I sojourned with you as years as the sand
You formed my thoughts before I could know,
From a seedling I came to now in full bloom.**

Who am I, O' Lord?

**Although I am as a drop in an endless sea.
The depths of which exceeds beyond my control
And darkness prevails in its deepest parts
The light of which that has no start
Yet no fear resides, for I know Thou art with me.**

Who am I, O' Lord?

**And even if all thy birds fall from thy sky,
Even before the last fish might perish from on this earth
That no crawly thing disturbs the sod
And nothing exists except you, O' God.
Even this last tear I know that only you can dry.**

Who am I, O' Lord?

You watched me grow from a suckling babe to porridge-fed in this old age.

Once nimble and keen of sight, full of vigor, and the pride of life.

The vanity of my youth has went away,

It had soon departed it could not stay.

It lingered a bit when it was released from its cage.

Who am I, O' Lord?

The breath of life when it finally departs

It will leave behind the rudiments of things gone by,

And all continues to slowly ebb

From living a life to becoming as dead.

We were loved at the end as we were from the start.

Who am I, O' Lord?

For we are all created and given His best

In the image of our God we are all created to be

With arms I reach for Your embrace,

Deliver me when I finish my race.

Bring me home O Lord Keep me close upon your breast .

~





~ *A Word from Brother Randal* ~

I am forwarding this message to our Brothers and Sisters in Christ, as a word of encouragement.

I think He is Calling the lost, and Healing many so they can bear witness to others. It is definitely time for us all to stand! I've been fasting and praying a lot lately, seeking to draw closer to the Lord and to shed as much of the world as I can, working toward becoming the man that He put me on Earth to be. It has been a very rewarding and blessed process --- He brought me to a place of having little (in finances) but wanting nothing, and still with the knowledge and promise that it is coming soon so there has never been a moment of fear. I did get a little down late last week, but only because I let self-pity creep in. Every moment that He Gives us here is according to His Will, so who am I to resist, judge or hesitate how it comes to me? Just to be a vessel of His Service is a High Blessing and Honor, so anything beyond that is more than I could hope or ask for.

One thing that has really set me free is the full knowledge that none of this matters in the end, which makes it so much easier to let go of strife against those who transgress against us. I am still learning my lessons and earning my stripes, and it is that knowledge which gives me the strength to learn from my mistakes in taking offense.

Most important for all of us is to develop our faith to a point that we KNOW that what we ask for in prayer will be granted unto us, and to remain aware that it may not (and most probably WILL not) come packaged in the way in which we imagine that it will. To think of all the interplay which the **Lord Must Handle** in order to see **His Will Fulfilled** on Earth, while concurrently answering our prayers for the desires and needs of our hearts, is beyond all comprehension. Such is the Majesty, Glory and Power of our Lord Jesus Christ! I am forever thankful and grateful that He Called me to His Service, and at this time when I am to bear witness to the manifestation of God's Word on Earth.

*Much love to you,
Randal*

~

John 17:17

(17) Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth (KJV).

Truth indeed does mean "factual," something that is right and good. However, we need to understand it in a slightly different way. The Greek word that is translated as "truth" is also equally well translated into "real" or "reality." God's Word is reality. Another English equivalent is the word "genuine"—God's Word is genuine.

Let us consider a few contrasts at this point. God's Word is factual as contrasted to flawed. Man's word is flawed; some of it is true, some is not true. Man's word is corrupted by the fact that, even though he may have good intentions, even though he may be sincere in wanting to tell the truth, his experience just does not support his ability to give us the whole truth. God sees all things, hears all things, knows all things. He is omnipotent, omnipresent, eternal, "having neither beginning of days nor end of life (Hebrews 7:3). He is the sum total of everything, and if *He* tells us something, it has behind it the weight of everything that He is. His Word, then, is not flawed because it is impossible for God to lie (Hebrews 6:18). Thus, God's Word is factual, as contrasted to the flawed word of man.

In addition, God's Word is pure (Psalms 119:140; Proverbs 30:5; I Peter 2:2), as contrasted to that which is contaminated. God's Word is genuine in contrast with what is hypocritical. The word of man may look good on the outside, but it is not all that good all the way through. God's Word is reality, as contrasted to fantasy or vanity.

It is good to understand this because, if we are going to use the Word of God in the right way, we have to believe it. We not only have to believe it, we must *trust* it. When Jesus says that God's Word is truth, and that we are sanctified by that Word, we need to understand it from the point of view, the perspective, of God: that His Word is pure, genuine, factual, and reality—and all these are contrasted to man's word. Despite having the best of intentions and sincerity, man cannot even begin to come close to ultimate truth of the Word of God.

Whose word will we use as evidence on which to base our lives if we desire to live by faith, by trust?

~ John W. Ritenbaugh ~
The Berean

They shall fix their hopes on this Son of Man...



**Then shall the kings, the princes, and all who possess the earth,
glorify Him who has dominion over all things, Him who was concealed;
for from eternity the Son of Man was concealed,
whom the Most High preserved in the presence of
His power and revealed to the elect.**

He shall sow the congregation of the saints, and of the elect;
and all the elect shall stand before Him in that day.
All the kings, the princes, the exalted, and those who rule
over the earth shall fall down on their faces before Him,
and shall worship Him.

They shall fix their hopes on this Son of Man...

Then the sword of the Lord of Spirits shall be drunk from them, the lost;
but the saints and the elect shall be safe in that day; nor the face
of the sinners and the ungodly shall they thence-forth behold.

**The Lord of Spirits shall remain over them;
And with this Son of Man shall they dwell, eat, lie down,
and rise up for ever and ever...**

Enoch 61:10-13

~