

May 11, 1994, Morning Sacrifice Boston

### **The Light of Life**

John 8:12 — Our Master spoke to them saying, “I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life.” 1 John 1:6 — If anyone is obstinate, they are not walking in the light and the Holy Spirit knows if they are walking in darkness. What is life? The light of life? It’s whatever our Father gives us that makes us eternal. We will never see death — we have eternal LIFE! It’s something our Father gives us, and once we have it no one can take it away from us. We have the light of life! Do you have the light of life that comes from life? The life that John 1:3-4 is speaking about — the life that came into being through our Master? This is talking about our Master Yahshua. Who is speaking to you right now? Are you listening to our Father or the enemy? Who gives you life? Is your attitude like our Master’s attitude? If not, then you are the slave of the evil one and you belong to him and listen to him. If you are in darkness you belong to the evil one and you will just go on in principle.

John 8:12 — He gives the light of life to those who follow Him. What does it require for a person to follow our Master? You have to give up all your evil, wicked attitudes that you inherited from your father, the evil one, to follow Him. FOLLOW — to be led by His Spirit. Put your mind on the Spirit, your Shepherd who leads you. You can’t do this if you’re not His sheep. John 10:4 — He goes before the sheep and they follow because they know His voice — because they know His voice! Do you know your Shepherd’s voice? If you’re His sheep you’ll know His voice. You’ll know by experience and you’ll be sensitive to it and follow. Verse 5 — And a stranger they simply will not follow. They will flee from him because they don’t know the voice of a stranger. STRANGER — Someone you don’t know. You only follow who you know. If you know the evil one you will follow him. You followed him all your life. You follow someone in your whole way of being (the way you walk, smile, talk, relate and respond to one another). If our Master is the one you are following, you’ll betray (show) His character through you. If you are following the evil one, you’ll show his character through you. If your mind is on the Spirit, you’ll be spiritual, but if your mind is on the flesh, you’ll be fleshly. It all depends on who you follow.

Do you know Him? Phil 3:10 talks about people who know Him. If you don’t know Him you’ll stay in torment and not be raised with Him when He comes. The people who don’t know Him will experience excruciating agony — what our Master experienced for the whole world when He went to death, Acts 2:24. There are people now in death who are experiencing this. He suffered the pangs of death for us and went into the center of the earth. But overcame death and was resurrected and if we know Him we will be resurrected with Him, too.

Phil 3:10 — You come to know Him by how you react to certain situations. If you don’t know Him you won’t suffer with Him. If you’ve been baptized you will suffer like He suffered and someday share in His resurrection. Some people don’t listen to the Shepherd or to the word when it is being read. That proves they don’t know Him. Some people live by principle, not allowing themselves to be led by the Holy Spirit. They know the right thing to do and can even do it without the Holy Spirit (on their own). They say, “I know how to repent”. They know the ropes and repent because they know the right principle, but their guilt will remain forever and ever if they don’t repent for saying such a thing in the Body. That proves they don’t know Him. They’re not experiencing His love and His Spirit speaking to them. Through His discipline you come to know what it means to put your mind on the Spirit and know Him. It comes from having a relationship with Him.

Phil 3:10 — To know is to experience through the senses. It's a subjective knowledge — knowing comes through an active relationship with a person — them knowing us and us being known by them.

Once you've known Him and He speaks to your heart and you receive revelation, there's no way that you can forget Him — it's yours forever and ever. Mt 16:18 — Yahshua told Peter that “Upon this rock I will build my Community.” The revelation you receive is like a rock. And when you're founded upon the rock you can't be moved. But if He doesn't speak to you, you don't know whether or not you're on the rock. You're wishy-washy. John 8:12 — “I am the light of the world . . .” You have the light of life. You have the light of life! John 1:4 — “In Him was the life, and the life was the light of men.” John 1:7 — Anyone who wants to believe in Him must believe through Him — the light of life. You have to believe through a person and come to believe through what that sent one says to you about our Master Yahshua. You must receive the person sent to you to speak the good news, and in this, you receive the One who sent him, John 13:20.

John 1:9 — Our Master came to bring enlightenment to all men, but they did not know Him or experience His salvation for them. Verse 11 — Even His own, the Jews did not receive Him. John 13:20 — If we receive a sent one we'll receive our Master Yahshua, and if we receive Him, we'll receive His Father. Luke 10:16 — Those who reject the sent one reject our Master and the Father who sent Him. Our Father gave us His Son, our Master Yahshua, so in giving up His life we could become His children. Many people never really come to know Him because they don't want to know Him. They have another Shepherd and are being led by another voice. Paul said there can be another voice that imitates righteousness. We have to know who we are following — the true Shepherd. We know we have passed out of death into life because we love one another. We are not living for ourselves anymore, but for our brothers and sisters, and our Master. We have to love them enough to be salt to them, speaking the truth in love.

James Howell lived here for 15 years, and he lived by principle his whole time in the Edah — neither hot nor cold, like the Laodecians. Our Master said that only those who endure until the end will be saved — Mt 24:13 — enduring is going through something. Only then will we be approved; by going through certain things and overcoming for our Master's sake.

What is recorded in the Bible would fill every book in the world, and you still would not be able to record all of it.

### ***True Repentance***

It shouldn't take more than two minutes for the Holy Spirit to convict a person of the evil way in them. But it can't be a principle either. We can't just say — “You're right, I repent!” — but if we really see we're wrong, we will repent from the heart and there will be progress in our lives. To REPENT is to turn around and go the other way. If we are as truthful as we know and we really repent, then we will turn and go the other way and our repentance will be obvious to everyone. Our Father can't release forgiveness until He knows we are really sorry and want to change. We can't act like we're restored if we aren't because we still aren't seeing our condition and giving up the sin that holds us. It is a spiritual thing — forgiveness can't be released by us just saying, “I'm sorry.” Our Father can release forgiveness — it's easy — when we confess our condition. Then we are forgiven with leniency. There is mercy for us when we want to repent with all our heart and turn from our evil ways.

ha-emeq — I learned something this morning. In John 1:3-4 it is so wonderful where it says, “Through Him all things came into being . . .” His life was the light of men. It's hard to relate to light. But I saw that our Master's life is the light that leads us. He is our example. John 8:12 —

He wants to lead us to follow His voice, but He will not walk in darkness. His life actually leads us so we can walk in the light. His life goes before us as a light! He's the light of life. I'm so thankful for Him.

It's a common thing, that we want to understand before we repent. It's so hard to understand, but if we trust He'll give us understanding.

Ethan — Our Father wants us to trust, and then He gives us understanding. I need to receive first and then understanding will come later.

If you have self-doubt and doubt yourself over your brother, then understanding will come later. It is humbling you to be in a place of not understanding and just trusting what is said to you.

Keli — Are we willing to forsake something for His sake? We sacrifice our life for His sake. We have to give up something before there is a sacrifice.

Are you willing to be wronged? Go ahead and take it and be wrong instead of sticking up for your rights. Our Master took it when He was reviled — He didn't revile back, 1 Peter 2:23. If you are wronged and don't revile then you suffer like our Master did. If we'll just receive our brothers and sisters, He'll give us understanding later.