

# LIGHT DEVOTIONAL

ISAIAH 9:2 & 6

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. . . . For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

## EXPERIENCE



My son Colton called me over to the window. “Dad, you have to look through this prism!” he said. I made my way over and he directed me to stare through the middle of the cross. He told me to pick one of the four sections in the center and then to focus on an object through the prism. He asked me if I saw any colors on the edges of that object. Sure enough, on one side of the gutter in the backyard I could see a shining blue edge and

on the other side a glowing red edge. As the light refracted around the gutter, the prism allowed me to pick up these distinct wavelengths and corresponding colors. Colton is a physics major in college, and he reminded me how light bends around objects. We went on to talk about the different mind-blowing properties of light. We spoke about how time slows down the closer something approaches the speed of light. We talked about how objects themselves are not inherently blue, red, green, or any other color, but we experience those colors because of light and how the light interacts with those objects. These characteristics about light blow my mind.

Light is wonderful, it is mesmerizing to go outside and look at the twinkling stars, the soft light of sunrises and sunsets, and especially this season, the variety of Christmas lights that shine from porches, roofs, and through windowpanes. But, all these lesser lights pale in comparison to the great light, the light of Christ Jesus. How might the lights of Christmas help the eyes of your heart to see and more fully appreciate Jesus this season?

## CONTEMPLATION

In looking through the prism at the center of the cross at a gutter enwrapped by glorious bending light, I was reminded of seeing all things through the lens of Christ's coming. At Christmas, we celebrate his first coming as a baby in Bethlehem. Jesus said of himself, "I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness" (John 12:46). Light dispels darkness and enables sight. Light is itself gloriously beautiful and lovely. Additionally, light makes it possible to see and appreciate all that is beautiful and lovely. The Apostle Paul explains that "the god of this world has blinded the

minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” (2 Corinthians 4:4). O that this Christmas, we will not miss the glory of Christ’s coming or the glory of the cross. May God illumine our minds that we may see and enjoy the profound beauty of the gospel.

Where are you seeing and savoring Christ’s glory this Christmas? How will you engage the beauty of the gospel this Christmas? Ironically, from the perspective of the cross in my window even a gutter can be glorious. As a sinner, desperately in need of grace, that is of great encouragement to me. To be honest, it can be difficult to see and appreciate this glory during advent. The distractions are real. The stresses of the season can be overwhelming. Eyes are easily blinded, hearing becomes dull, and our spiritual senses are numbed. I long for God to speak those words again “Let there be light”, and once again enliven my heart. Perhaps, you long for this fresh illumination too.

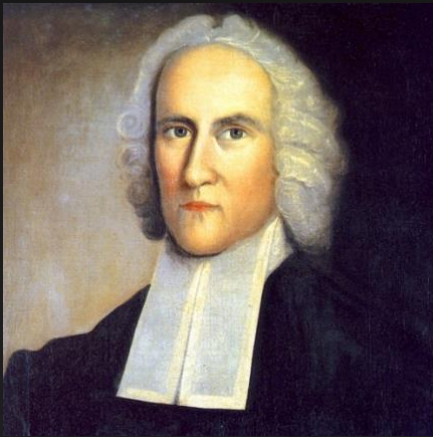
## PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, you are my light and my salvation, yet my mind and heart are once again in desperate need of grace. Let there be light to illumine my eyes to see and savor your beauty, your goodness, and your glory. Guard me from walking through the days ahead without a vision for the glory of the gospel. Grant me a heart that celebrates your first coming and that yearns for your second coming. I ask all this in Christ’s name. Amen.

## CONFIRMATION

Light is a multi-faceted emblem that represents so much truth about God and his ways. Jesus said in John 8:12, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have

the light of life.” Believers are reminded to look to Christ as their light (him who is most glorious), but also that in and through him is the means by which we see all beauty and glory. Christ is both the means and the end.



## Jonathan Edwards

### A Divine and Supernatural Light

“And [divine and supernatural light] may be thus described: a true sense of the divine excellency of the things revealed in the Word of God, and a conviction of the truth and reality of them, thence arising. This spiritual light primarily consists in the former of these,

viz. a real sense and apprehension of the divine excellency of things revealed in the Word of God. A spiritual and saving conviction of the truth and reality of these things, arises from such a sight of their divine excellency and glory; so that this conviction of their truth is an effect and natural consequence of this sight of their divine glory. There is therefore in this spiritual light, [a] true sense of the divine and superlative excellency of the things of religion; a real sense of the excellency of God, and Jesus Christ, and of the work of redemption, and the ways and works of God revealed in the gospel. There is a divine and superlative glory in these things; an excellency that is of a vastly higher kind, and more sublime nature, than in other things; a glory greatly distinguishing them from all that is earthly and temporal. He that is spiritually enlightened truly apprehends and sees it, or has a sense of it.”<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> [Jonathan Edwards, \*Sermons and Discourses 1730-1733\*, WJE 17:413.](#)