

THE GOOD GIFT OF LASTING LIGHT
John 1:1-18 (CSB)

Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.

Genesis 2:7 (CSB)

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden?'"² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden."³ But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, "You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die."⁴ "No! You will certainly not die," the serpent said to the woman.⁵ "In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."⁶ The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Genesis 3:1-7 (CSB)

Adam was intimate with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, for she said, "God has given me another offspring in place of Abel, since Cain killed him."²⁶ A son was born to Seth also, and he named him Enosh. At that time people began to call on the name of the LORD.

Genesis 4:25-26 (CSB)

- DARKNESS may shroud the light, but it cannot OVERCOME it.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was with God in the beginning.³ All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created.⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men.⁵ That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it.⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John.⁷ He came as a witness to testify about the light, so that all might believe through him.⁸ He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

John 1:1-9 (CSB)

- SELFISHNESS may shroud the light, but it cannot OVERCOME it.

He was in the world, and the world was created through him, and yet the world did not recognize him.¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.¹² But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name,¹³ who were born, not of natural descent, or of the will of the flesh, or of the will of man, but of God.¹⁴ The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory,

the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified concerning him and exclaimed, "This was the one of whom I said, 'The one coming after me ranks ahead of me, because he existed before me.'") ¹⁶ Indeed, we have all received grace upon grace from his fullness, ¹⁷ for the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. The one and only Son, who is himself God and is at the Father's side—he has revealed him.

John 1:10-18 (CSB)

- SICKNESS and SADNESS may shroud the light, but it cannot OVERCOME it.

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners; ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of our God's vengeance; to comfort all who mourn, ³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion; to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, festive oil instead of mourning, and splendid clothes instead of despair. And they will be called righteous trees, planted by the LORD to glorify him. ⁴ They will rebuild the ancient ruins; they will restore the former devastations; they will renew the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ⁵ Strangers will stand and feed your flocks, and foreigners will be your plowmen and vinedressers. ⁶ But you will be called the LORD's priests; they will speak of you as ministers of our God; you will eat the wealth of the nations, and you will boast in their riches. ⁷ In place of your shame, you will have a double portion; in place of disgrace, they will rejoice over their share. So they will possess double in their land, and eternal joy will be theirs. ⁸ For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and injustice; I will faithfully reward my people and make a permanent covenant with them. ⁹ Their descendants will be known among the nations, and their posterity among the peoples. All who see them will recognize that they are a people the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰ I rejoice greatly in the LORD, I exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation and wrapped me in a robe of righteousness, as a groom wears a turban and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth produces its growth, and as a garden enables what is sown to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Isaiah 61:1-11 (CSB)