



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

"You ARE Light"

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Passages (TLV): Eph 5:1-17; Is 8:20-22; 9:1-6; Is. 60:1-3; John 1:1-14; 3:19-21; 9:5; Ezek. 34:11; James 1:17-18; Luke 6:43-45; Rev. 21:22-25

We were dead in our sins—walking dead. Alive on the outside, but rotting on the inside. From our earliest memories, what felt most natural was *me*: my needs, my comfort, my reputation, my turn. Whether the world has four people or eight billion, the result of everyone fighting for "ME" is the same—death. Families fracture, communities divide, nations rage, all because me-first-ness rules the human heart. Scripture is painfully honest: "*the wages of sin is death.*" Me-centeredness is not just unhealthy; it is darkness. It stinks. It destroys. And yet we call it "the real world."

Isaiah describes where that road always leads: *only distress, only darkness, utter gloom* (Isa. 8:20–22). That was never God's desire. We were created in His image—to reflect His goodness, His righteousness, His truth. Life flowed freely. There was openness without shame, unity without fear, authority without exploitation. But when humanity reached out to *take* what only God could *give*, we lost the very life we were trying to secure. Darkness entered. Shame followed. Blame spread. And unplugged from the Source of Light, we became what Scripture says plainly: **darkness itself**.

1. DARKNESS IS NOT JUST AROUND US; IT WAS IN US

Scripture does not say we were *in* darkness. It says we *were* darkness. That's uncomfortable—but honest. We weren't basically good people who just needed better direction. We were driven by self-centered cravings, shaped by deception, conforming to a system built on me-ness. And the heart is deceptive enough to keep telling us, "I'm not evil—I just make mistakes." But Scripture cuts through the excuses: evil is self-centeredness that refuses the light because it does not want to be exposed (Jn. 3:19–21).

This is why the Light is such a threat to darkness. Light doesn't argue. It reveals. When Messiah came, He didn't just offer better morals—He brought life itself. "*In Him was life, and the life was the light of men*" (Jn. 1:4). And when that Light entered the world, people loved darkness more—not because they were ignorant, but because the light exposed the lie of me-ness. Yet this is where grace steps in: if we lay down our self-centered life, we find real life. If we cling to it, we keep losing. The gospel is not self-improvement; it is resurrection.

2. IN THE LORD, YOU ARE LIGHT

Here is the miracle of salvation: "*Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you ARE light*" (Eph. 5:8). Not just *in* the light—you **are light**. The Father is pure light, with no shifting shadow, and now we are His children. Like the moon reflecting the sun, we shine only because we are in Him. Apart from Him, we produce nothing. But in Him, we illuminate dark places simply by being who we are called to be.

Walking as children of light means our lives bear fruit that looks like the Father—goodness, righteousness, and truth (Eph. 5:9–10). Goodness that seeks the good of others. Righteousness that does what is right even when it costs us. Truth that begins in the inner being, where God’s light exposes and heals. This is not legalism; it is restoration. We are not trying to earn salvation—we are learning to live like people who have been rescued from darkness and reborn into light.

3. LIGHT REVEALS WITHOUT BECOMING LOUD

Paul tells us not to partner with the fruitless deeds of darkness—but instead to expose them (Eph. 5:11). This does not mean we become sin-hunters or self-appointed police. Darkness doesn’t need help being identified. What Paul means is that **light exposes darkness simply by being present**. When you refuse to gossip, your silence speaks. When you don’t join in degrading talk, your restraint shines. When you walk in integrity, contrast does the work.

Light doesn’t need theatrics. It just needs faithfulness. *“Everything exposed by the light becomes visible”* (Eph. 5:13). That’s why the call is so urgent: *“Wake up, O sleeper... and Messiah will shine on you”* (Eph. 5:14). Time matters. The days are evil. So walk wisely. Discern what pleases the Lord. Not surface obedience—but transformed hearts that reflect His character. The world does not need louder Believers; it needs brighter ones.

CONCLUSION

So here’s the question: **Are we shining?** Are we reflecting His goodness, His truth, His love—or are we still protecting me-ness in the shadows? The Light has come. Darkness has been exposed. And Messiah stands ready to shine on every surrendered heart. If you are tired of defending yourself, tired of hiding, tired of carrying the weight of self-centered living—lay it down. Life is found only when we stop grabbing and start trusting. If today you recognize that you’ve been clinging to darkness—through bitterness, compromise, impurity, or self-rule—this is your moment. Turn toward the Light. Confess. Receive. And choose to walk as a child of light. Not tomorrow. Not someday. **Now.** Wake up. Rise from the dead. Messiah will shine on you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Where do you see “me-ness” most actively shaping your decisions right now?
2. What does it practically look like for you to “walk as a child of light” this week?
3. Why do you think silence and restraint can sometimes shine brighter than confrontation?
4. How does gratitude reshape the way we speak and relate to others?
5. What areas of your life need to be brought fully into the light of Messiah?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Father of Lights, we confess that we were once darkness—self-centered, defensive, and deceived. Thank You for loving us to life. Thank You for sending the Light into our darkness. Expose what needs healing. Transform what has been twisted. Teach us to walk as children of light—in goodness, righteousness, and truth. May our lives reflect Your heart, and may Messiah shine through us for Your glory. Amen.