

# JESUS CHRIST: LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Have you ever been in a totally dark room when the light was suddenly switched on? Though it takes a few moments of adjusting, something extraordinary happens. We can see! As our eyes focus, the light gives us the ability to see what we're doing, where we're at, and where we're going.

The birth of Jesus was a lot like that – light shattering the darkness. When God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, into the world as a tiny baby, mankind was separated from the goodness of God and walking in the darkness of sin. In this age of high-tech war, senseless violence, and degraded values, it would seem that the world has not really changed all that much in the last 2,000 years. Technology has advanced and the world population has exploded, but the presence of sin and darkness still stands as a gap between man and God.

But like fireworks bursting overhead, punching bright holes in the darkness of sin, the coming of Christ brought light to a somber, needy world. It bridged the gap. It still does! It is a light that still has relevance today and guides those who believe and travel the path of God's perfect plan for their lives. It is a light that keeps us from stumbling on the journey and keeps us in the center of his will. Full of hope, it packs more power than a Star Wars light saber – his light chases the darkness away!

It's an easy concept to understand and one that we can use to share our faith in Christ during the holidays. You see, the Christmas season is more than a story of a baby in a manger – it's a light event! Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." Each time we see the twinkling lights of the season, we can be reminded that he is the light of love, forgiveness, and illuminates our pathway to eternal union with God. And we can be willing to help those around us see things in a different light!

## *Seeing things in a different light*

Light has always been a representation of that which is good, true, and holy for mankind, while darkness has symbolized that which is evil and false. The Bible tells us, "Whoever lives by the truth comes into the light ...." (John 3:21a) Jesus Christ invites all of us to see things in a different "light."

Step into the light – 1 John 1:5 tells us that God is light. Jesus is the light from God sent to light the way to authentic life. Without a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, we live in darkness and cannot know God. But by accepting Jesus as our personal savior and acknowledging that God sent him to die on the cross for our sins, we can walk in the light.

Walk in the light – To walk in the light, we must not only acknowledge Christ as our Savior, we must ask forgiveness of the sin in our life. 1 John 1:7 assures us that if we walk in the light as God is in the light, the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Spread the light – When you walk in the light, you become a beacon of God's love and forgiveness to all those around you. Jesus encouraged us in Matthew 5:16b to "let your light shine before men" so they might see your new life and be open to God's life-changing light.

God wants everyone to have a glorious life walking in the light and offers you his purest gift – Jesus Christ. If you will accept his light in your life, pray a prayer similar to this:

*Dear God, I know that I am a sinner walking in darkness. I believe that Jesus Christ is the light of the world, sent by you to forgive me of my sins. I now accept your offer of eternal life. Thank you for forgiving me of all my sin and darkness. Thank you for my new life. From this day forward, I will choose to follow you and walk in the light.*

***"I am the light that has come into the world so that all who believe in me won't have to stay any longer in the dark." – Jesus Christ  
(John 12:46 MSG)***

