

LIVING AS SONS OF LIGHT

- by Bro. Sreeram

Isaiah 60:1:- *Arise! Shine, for your light has come,
the glory of the LORD has dawned upon you.*

This is the promise of the new covenant life that is given to us believers in Jesus. The light that Isaiah says will shine on us, is the glory of God himself which he further says will make us live for ever in day.

Isaiah 60:19:- *No longer shall the sun
be your light by day,
Nor shall the brightness of the moon
give you light by night;
Rather, the LORD will be your light forever,
your God will be your glory.
No longer will your sun set,
or your moon wane;
For the LORD will be your light forever,*

Now that we have this promise that our Sun will never set, how should our lives reflect this glorious promise of New Covenant.

Apostle Paul Explains this with 3 different images of what it takes to live in Day forever. He calls such people as sons and daughters of light.

1. Romans 13:12:- *the night is advanced, the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness [and] put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day,*

Paul here is giving us a picture of changing our dress from a night dress to a dress fit to be worn in the daytime. When we go to sleep we put on a night dress that is not presentable. I went to sleep last night in a shirt and trouser that were faded, which I will not wear when I get outside in daylight. So we all wear a much presentable dress during the day.

The night dress that Paul is asking us to throw off is the works that we did in our past life of darkness. That work is not presentable now that we have received the truth. He lists them as,

not in orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and licentiousness, not in rivalry and jealousy.

If we live in any of these then it means that we are still in our night dress even though the day has dawned. We are not yet ready to live in the day.

The day dress that Paul wants us to wear, is mentioned in the subsequent verse as, '*But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh*'.

The life of Jesus represents the only dress that is fit to be worn in the day. Which means to live with an attitude of not making any provision to the flesh. This is the way Jesus lived.

Let us examine our selves as to which dress we are wearing. Do we still live in strife and Jealousy? Do we still entertain the passions of flesh? If so then we need to put it off as Lord is willing to shine his glory forever upon us in this new covenant life.

2. Ephesians 5:8:- *for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light* ⁹ *(for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth),* ¹⁰ *trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.* ¹

Here Paul wants us to walk in light as we are children of light and not walk in darkness. I used to work late night shifts when I was living in India during 2007. The street I lived was under construction. Hence cars could not be driven in the street. My company cab would drop me some 200 feet before my house. So I have to walk this distance in pitch darkness. I was so scared as I didn't know what was ahead of me. I could step into a open manhole or even stamp a sleeping street dog which might bite me in return! Those scary experiences of walking in the darkness is still fresh in my memory. But imagine if I walked on the same street around mid day instead of midnight, even though the road will be the same with holes and street dog, I will walk with assurance. What makes the difference is the presence of daylight.

In this new covenant also if God's light is shining bright in our life then we will also walk with assurance. That is why Paul is telling in verse 10, to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Or in other words learn God's will. This assurance of God's will is what symbolizes that we have a fellowship with God. No other experience can mean anything if we do not have this assurance. For example, when my family moved to Dallas, I was absolutely certain that this was God's will. Even though we faced uncertainties like the delay in arrival of household items and other such things, I did not lose the assurance that this is all according to God's will.

Let us examine our selves. How is our daily walk? Do we have an assurance that we can now know what is God's will for us? Do we have an assurance of doing God's will? Do we have an assurance that all our past life of darkness has been forgiven? If we lack this assurance then it means we are still not used to living in God's broad daylight. We need to seek this assurance from God.

3. 1 Thessalonians 5:5:- *for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; ^eso then let us not sleep as ^eothers do, but let us be alert and ^esober.*

Another picture of sons of light is they will be active as we are active in the day. Kids, what did you do last night? Did you all not go to sleep? But why are you awake now? It is because the day has dawned. So if God's light has dawned in our life, then we too will be on alert and sober.

Kids when you were sleeping last night, is it possible that someone could have mocked you by drawing a mustache to you? Yes it is possible. But can they do it now? The answer is NO.

When we are spiritually alert no temptation can overtake us. We will be alert to do God's will and take hold of this eternal life that we received in Christ Jesus. We all know the story of Samson, he lost his anointing when his hair was cut while he was sleeping. The same way if we are not alert, we could lose the anointing that we received from our Lord. Another picture of sons of light is they will be on alert.

Again let us examine our selves. Are we on alert with respect to our spiritual life? Or are we living a loose Christian life where any temptation is able to defeat us? If we lack this alertness, then it symbolizes that we are still not living as sons of light.

May the Lord make us all live as the sons and daughters of light. Amen.