

LET IN THE
light

50 Devotions

to Confidently Know God Is
Good and Guiding Your Steps

The Proverbs 31 Ministries Team

WITH A FOREWORD BY

Lysa TenKeunst



THOMAS NELSON
Since 1798

LET IN THE LIGHT

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To the writers of this devotional: Thank you for saying yes to this project and shining your light for the world, bringing glory to God with your writing.

May the LORD bless you and protect you;
may the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
may the LORD look with favor on you
and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24–26)



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Hi friend,

Here's what I've come to know: One of Satan's greatest desires is to separate us from God. And he attempts to accomplish this by separating us from God's Word.

Satan wants us to see the Bible as a burden instead of as the blessing it really is. He will try to make us think we don't have enough time to read God's Word. Or that we're not smart enough to study and understand it. He'll also suggest the lie that it's too hard to live out the truths in God's Word.

The minute any of these thoughts pop into our minds, we must recognize them as messages of the Enemy trying to lure us into a trap. Of course he wants to separate us from God's Word: *It's our trusted handbook for living.*

Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is *a lamp* for my feet and *a light* on my path" (italics added). And then just a few verses later, we read, "The revelation of your words brings *light* and gives *understanding* to the inexperienced" (v. 130, italics added).

These verses hold such a dear place in my heart. I personally know it's possible to encounter the power of God's light even in dark and difficult seasons.

Friend, make no mistake—we are in a battle. A daily one. Darkness is trying with all its might to overcome, *but light always wins*. Even in nature, no matter how hard the darkness tries to shut it out, light always breaks through.

Knowing this truth, our hearts can hope!

Are you ready to refuse the Enemy's temptation to dwell in doubt and defeat?

Does your weary and discouraged heart long to feel excitement around God's Word again?

Is there an area of your life that needs a touch of God's light?

Mine too.

Now . . . let's let in the light together.

Many blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lysa', with a decorative flourish extending to the right.

Lysa TerKeurst
President and Chief Visionary Officer,
Proverbs 31 Ministries





PART 1

God Is Light

Light is symbolic of purity, truth, beauty, and life. When the Bible says, "God is light," we understand it to mean that God is the source of everything good and glorious. There is no darkness or even a shadow within Him.



Light Has Dawned

SARAH FREYMUTH

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light, and there is absolutely no darkness in him.

I JOHN 1:5

Winter keeps coming, which feels like a heaviness in the air and in my chest if I admit it. Sometimes it's hard to see my way through this time of perpetual darkness with the appearance of the sun so late and its sinking so early in the day. It's hard to keep waking up at my normal alarm time when I'm burrowed under comfy covers and the world outside looks like it's still the middle of the night.

On the shortest day of the year, the winter solstice, we see the least amount of light. A veil of darkness makes many of us wish we could curl up and hibernate all winter.

Like the literal dark of this winter day, emotional or spiritual exhaustion

can overtake us with the hard things we endure. Whether it's more devastation on the news, late nights worrying about a prodigal, another month barely paying the bills, or a season where joy has been elusive, we're faced with that same temptation to close our eyes to all of it and hope when we open them that things will be different.

It's hard to keep slogging through when life is difficult and darkness prevails. Will this winter of our hearts always last?

We sit and wait and wonder.

Then we see it. Peeling back the dark . . . light has dawned.

The Bright and Morning Star arises, alight with life and hope. Jesus has come into this world and taken darkness captive; He has overshadowed it by the power of His light. In Him there is no darkness, and He does not fear going to the depths for us. The darkness is not dark to Him. Nothing in your situation can scare Him away; it's the opposite. When you call out to Him in your suffering, He draws close.

Jesus came to a world riddled with darkness, destruction, temptation, and brokenness. He came headfirst and lived among us, calling all to Him, the Light of life. When we are weary, He is our strength. When we run out of steam, He keeps us going. When we face the lies of the Evil One, He battles for us, reminding us of our worth in Him.

He is the light that cannot be overcome. This is the hope we hold close, the joy that illuminates our hearts because we can shift our focus from the weak winter sun to the eternal Son who sets us free to live in His light and shine it out to others.

Mindful of this truth, waking up today doesn't seem as harsh as usual. Layers of blue and gray and white clouds climb the sky, patterned in winter's blanket, a layered beauty I know the sun resides behind.

Glory, the Light of the World has come.



JOURNAL PROMPT

How is Jesus comforting you with His light and love in this season?

Reframe your thinking on something you're struggling with. How does the light of Jesus' power and love change how you approach it?



2

The Father of Lights

CAROLE HOLIDAY

*Every good and perfect gift is from above,
coming down from the Father of lights,
who does not change like shifting shadows.*

JAMES 1:17

I loved Nancy Drew mystery books when I was a kid. The classic characters captivated my ten-year-old imagination. Predictably, the villain appeared hanging in the shadows and was portrayed in terms that told the reader this ne'er-do-well was shifty, reliably unreliable, sometimes there and sometimes not—always one who could not be trusted.

When I read James's descriptive words, "shifting shadows," I thought back to those literary villains who hid in the darkness.

Writing to the scattered believers who were enduring trials, James reminded us that our God is not one who lurks in the shadows. God is nothing like that.

In fact, James explained that there is no shadow in Him at all. No villainous shiftiness can be contained in the One James called the Father of lights.

What was James referring to with this name? Is it a prompt, perhaps, to meditate in awe on the One who hung the glowing celestial orbs in the sky, the heavenly parent who perfectly planted the stars, willing the planets to turn with unmatched precision? If He could do all that, is it any wonder that God could speak light into existence? And if God created light, He remains the eternal source of that light. The *Father* of lights.

Picture the sun, our solar system's only star, suspended center stage in the heavens. Its nature makes it impossible to contain darkness. It is constant, ever-present, and created by the One who shares the same qualities.

Our heavenly Father doesn't have a dark side. All sides of God are light. Because of that, there is no side we cannot see, no fickleness that leaves us wondering if God's character will shift and surprise us with unknown parts of Him. As a result, the only gifts that can emanate from Him are consistent with His goodness. Dark cannot be born of light.

James wanted to remind the suffering saints that God was not the author of their misery. Their trials were not concocted by Him. And, hurting reader, the trials you are experiencing were not placed in your path by a shady side of God that wishes to trick you. Sometimes we need to remind ourselves of God's goodness.

That's why James stated the case plainly: "Every good and perfect gift is from above" (James 1:17). He wanted to settle that debate once and for all.

Many times I have sung the words of one of the most endearing hymns that speak to this faithful aspect of God. Thomas Chisholm's "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" never fails to trigger goose bumps as the lyric "There is no shadow of turning with Thee" reassures me that God remains immovable, delivering gifts from the very core of His being. He drives away darkness and ensures a constant, unchanging, eternal light.





3

Our God, the Everlasting Light

RACHEL MARIE KANG

The sun will no longer be your light by day, and the brightness of the moon will not shine on you. The LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your splendor.

ISAIAH 60:19

*T*here we were, standing on the sidewalk and staring up at the sky just like the rest of North America. We were waiting for the sky to dim, all of us waiting for the darkness—that rare moment of totality.

After hours of watching the clock, it finally happened: The moon hid the light of the sun, casting a shadow that covered an eclipse path across earth. A chill settled into the air as—in those brief minutes—darkness hushed over land and sky. It was a majestic and mysterious moment, seeing this bright and

shining star obscured by a celestial body four hundred times smaller than its own.

Later that day, while watching the news and scrolling through social media, I was inundated with a sharing of ancient perspectives on past solar eclipse experiences. Today, with modern technology, a solar eclipse is viewed as a natural phenomenon that is wildly sensational and, for the most part, safe. However, at one time, many people and civilizations regarded any occurrence of a solar eclipse as fearful or fateful.

Imagine a world without light switches or telescopes. Imagine witnessing these seemingly sporadic or seasonal instances of all light going out. Imagine the stories passed down through generations, speaking of eclipses as dreaded omens, rumored harbingers of darkness and, therefore, death.

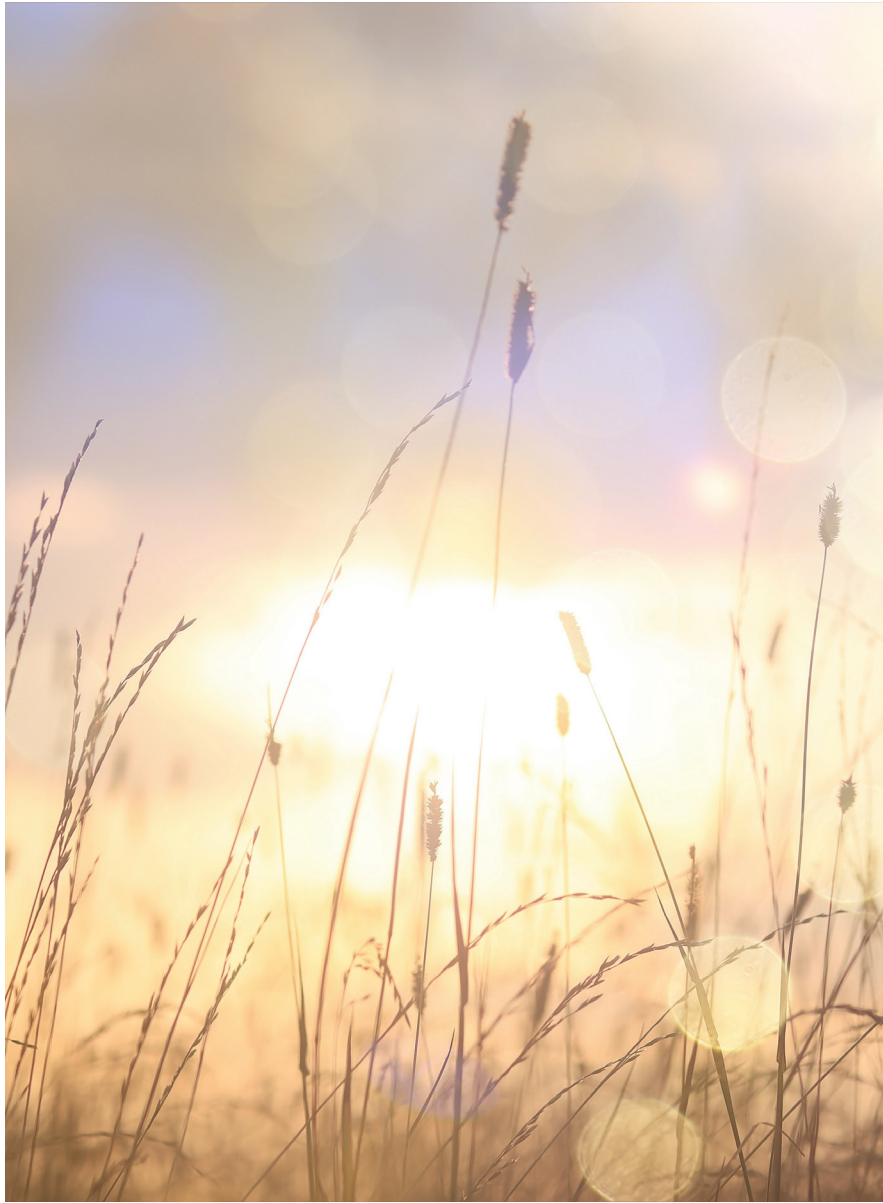
Now, with that in mind, imagine how this word from the prophet Isaiah might have been received by Zion—an ancient people well acquainted with the gravity of grief, oppression, and devastating darkness:

The sun will no longer be your light by day, and the brightness of the moon will not shine on you. (Isaiah 60:19)

For people who looked to the sun, relying on it for everyday life and survival—heat, energy, and light—Isaiah’s prediction could have been both paradigm-shifting and awe-inspiring.

Regardless of the state of Zion’s surroundings, Isaiah’s prophecy was astonishingly true . . . and coming true: The truth that the Lord is—and forever will be—the everlasting light. He is the one who shines before and beyond time, beyond all celestial bodies that bring the providence and promise of light.

Zion had this promise to cling to: “The *LORD* will be your everlasting light.” Not a light that expires or can be expended but *the* everlasting light. No matter



their surroundings—in and through the seasons as manifested in nature, as well as those seasons of the soul experienced internally within their hearts—God would outlast and outshine it all.

His splendor is unequalled, never to be eclipsed by sin or sorrow or even death—*yes*, death—for in Jesus is a dawn, light and life coming from and through Him. All praise to God for the brightness He is and the brightness He brings.

And what grace that the same is true for us today. Our glorious God will and does outlast and outshine all.

JOURNAL PROMPT

In what areas of your life do you need God's light to brighten that which is dark, dreaded, or dead?



The Lord Is My Light

HADASSAH TREU

*The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom should I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life—whom should I dread?*

PSALM 27:1

We all have fears. Research shows that most people fear losing their health, wealth, and loved ones. Some of us are afraid of heights or spiders. What worst-case scenario sends shudders along your spine in the night and makes your hands sweat?

I have struggled with a lot of fears and anxieties in my life that escalated to severe panic attacks in my forties when I desperately wanted to become a mother but couldn't. Panic attacks ushered in a complete loss of control over my reactions. The fear of death, the terror of losing control, and the dread of the next panic attack were my cruel companions for several months.

In anguish, I asked the Lord for a weapon, a word of war against the terror

I faced. He gave me an arsenal; however, I will never forget the first one that became my life verse: “The *LORD* is my light and my salvation—whom should I fear? The *LORD* is the stronghold of my life—whom should I dread?” (Psalm 27:1).

The Lord is my light. Fear clouds our perceptions, blinds us, paralyzes us, and throws us into chaos and confusion. We lose orientation and can’t see our way out. We are stuck. But the Lord brings light, helps us see the path ahead, and enables us to take the next step. His presence is like a blanket of peace that calms our nervous systems.

The Lord is my salvation. When chained by fear, we need God’s help. Our souls can lean on Him, trusting that He will provide timely help, wisdom, healing, and everything we need to break the chains and walk in freedom. Fear is a deadly enemy, but the Lord is our mighty Savior.

The Lord is the stronghold of my life. Fear shows us how fragile we are, full of limitations and easily shaken. We need a solid foundation under our feet, an eternal rock to support and hold us when we disintegrate into a thousand pieces. The Lord remains our unlimited source of strength, support, and safety, holding us together always.

In my battle with fear and panic attacks, these three truths about God helped me stay focused on the protective presence of the Lord and prepared me to receive His help and provision. This powerful declaration of faith opened the door to my healing and growth in the only healthy fear: the fear of the Lord.

The fear of the Lord is the most powerful antidote and therapy against all other fears and worries. It sets our hearts in the right position of reverence and awe toward God as the only almighty, sovereign God, Creator, and Master of creation. It is an attitude that acknowledges Him as the only One with supreme authority over everything and everyone, over life and death.

When we put our unconditional faith in the Lord as our light, salvation, and

