

Walk In The Light

Did you know that there were approximately 1 million people who packed into Times Square on New Years Eve to watch the crystal ball drop at midnight, the beginning of 2026. The ball was new this year, containing 5,280 crystals and weighing in at 12,350 pounds. And, for the first time ever, the ball was relit at approximately 12:04 AM in anticipation of America's 250th anniversary on July 4, 2026. And the ball is scheduled to drop a third time on the eve of the Fourth of July, for the same reason.

Consider this: it's dark at midnight when the ball drops making the light more necessary, obvious and powerful. The light descends from above to the earth below. It's available to all but experienced only by those who seek to do so. I did not see it, but I believe it because it was widely reported to be true. It became a reality at the proper moment, not a minute too soon, not a moment too late. Does this sound like Christmas?

1. "For You light my lamp; The LORD my God illumines my darkness." (Psalm 18:28)

A. Simeon's description of the baby Jesus. ("A light for revelation to the Gentiles" (Luke 2:32)

B. Do you remember what John's gospel says—

John 1:4-5 "In Him was life, and the life was the Light of mankind. 5 And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not grasp it."

C. When you trusted Jesus as Lord—

Colossians 1:13 "For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,"

D. In this kingdom—

1 John 1:5 "This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all."

E. We are called to walk in the Light—

1 John 1:7 "but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."

F. "The sin underneath all our sins is to trust the lie of the serpent that we cannot trust the love and grace of Christ and must take matters into our own hands." (Martin Luther)

G. But David prayed,

Psalm 18:28 "For You light my lamp; The LORD my God illumines my darkness."

1. When we choose the former, we experience the later.

2. I want to challenge you to walk in the light this year.

2. The challenge for this new year.

A. We must choose to walk in the light. It is a choice.

B. Jesus honors "free will."

1. We are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). He will not force us to walk in the light.
2. If we want to experience his transforming grace we must choose to walk in his light.
3. How can we walk in the light? Start each day with Jesus.
 - A. We cannot walk in the light unless we are in the light.
 1. Begin everyday with Jesus in worship, prayer, Bible Study.
 2. Connect your heart with his heart, his Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18 “And do not get drunk with wine, in which there is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,”

- B. Stay in the light through the day.
 1. When the enemy tempts you with darkness, turn to God’s Spirit for guidance and power.
 2. If you step out of the light, and you will at times, fail, confess your sin immediately, claim your Father’s forgiveness, and return to the light.
- C. Focus on the present.
 1. We cannot walk the next mile while walking this mile.
 2. All of God there is, is in this moment.
- D. Give thanks to God for all that is good.

After her horrific captivity, a freed Israeli hostage named Emily Damari wrote:

“I have ... learned to value everything I do in my life. I open the fridge: I say thank you. I drink cold water: I say thank you. I am thankful for everything—big things and little things. Gratitude is very important. I am grateful that I have the privilege of being thankful.”

- E. Trust God to redeem all that is hard.
- Matthew Henry said: “Extraordinary afflictions are not always the punishment of extraordinary sins, but sometimes the trial of extraordinary graces.”
- F. Make Christlikeness your goal.

You can make no greater difference in the world than shining the light of Christ in our dark culture.
4. You can do all that God has asked you to.
 - A. Do what God wants you to do.
 1. This is what our lives are to be about.
 2. When we choose to walk in the light, his Spirit will empower, enable and fill us with the light of Christ. His light will shine through our words and works and defeat the darkness wherever we go. Our lives and our world will never be the same.

“Legalism says God will love us if we change. The gospel says God will change us because he loves us.” (Tullian Tchividjian)

