

Rev Up the Light!

"For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true." The Apostle Paul | Ephesians 5:8-9 (NLT)

Early in our dating relationship I took Sue on a picnic. We grabbed sandwiches and found a table overlooking a local lake. A former quarry, it sat below us encompassed by steep walls (an important detail!) As we finished our meal, I suggested we walk around the lake on the path at the base of the cliffs. Beautiful... until we hit a swamp about 3/4's around. After turning back our troubles multiplied. Darkness came early down there. Lacking a flashlight, we were in a deep pit in more ways than one! An effort to beeline up the slope failed so we continued to retrace our steps. Growing darker, the shadows tricked our eyes. We were forced to feel for the path using our feet. After numerous stumbles, we finally neared the top to see daylight still shining brightly. With a huge sigh we emerged from the shadows.

A pleasant adventure turned into an unpleasant trudge. Why Sue continued to date me after that I'll never know!

"My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life." Jesus Christ (John 10:10b)

Born in darkness, we're predisposed to stumble down life's shadowy paths as if we lacked light... A surefire way to transform the rich and satisfying life Jesus spoke of into an unpleasant trudge.

Reflect: Has my life become an unpleasant trudge?

Unlike me on that hike, you have a light... you've been saved! But do you walk as a person of light?

"This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth." The Apostle John (1 John 1:5-6) Is the light shining brighter (i.e. are you enjoying ever deepening fellowship with the Lord) as you go?

"The way of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter until the full light of day." King Solomon (Proverbs 4:18)

Is it time to rev up the Light?

Consider: Fear of the Lord revs up the Light.

Have you fully grasped what outpours when you Fear the Lord? It opens the floodgates to all he offers...

"Fear of the Lord is a life-giving fountain; it offers escape from the snares of death." King Solomon (Proverbs 14:27)

... and Fruits,

"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and selfcontrol." The Apostle Paul (Galatians 5:22-23)

... and Mission,

(Read: <u>The Path into the Adventure of</u> <u>your Life</u>)



... and Hope,

"I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit." The Apostle Paul (Romans 15:13)

... and Light!

"Joyful is the person who finds wisdom, the one who gains understanding... She will guide you down delightful paths... My child, don't lose sight of common sense and discernment... They keep you safe on your way, and your feet will not stumble... You need not be afraid... for the Lord is your security. He will keep your foot from being caught in a trap. King Solomon (Proverbs 3:13-26)

Want your path illuminated? Fear the Lord. He's your Light!

"The Lord is my light and my salvation—so why should I be afraid? The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble?" King David (Psalm 21:1)

<u>Rev up the Light by taking the Lord's promises seriously</u>! Step boldly forward in faith and discover the illuminating fellowship John spoke of.

Imagine: The Path to Advance my Mission is brightly lit.

Your Mission leads down an unfamiliar path, full of shadowy twists and turns. How can you navigate it lacking Light? When darkness falls (it will!); when you stumble (you will!) and life begins to feel like an unpleasant trudge... remember to Fear the Lord! Take his promises seriously by faithfully practicing the truth...

Rev Up the Light!

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach's Questions

- List 8 words that capture what it means to Fear the Lord.
- On a scale of 1-10 (10 being the brightest), how well illuminated is my path right now?
- What fear is casting a shadow?

• What promise of the Lord's do I need to take more seriously to increase the Light and overcome this fear?



Fear of the Lord Illuminates My Path.

Jesus replied, "My light will shine for you just a little longer. Walk in the light while you can, so the darkness will not overtake you. Those who walk in the darkness cannot see where they are going. Put your trust in the light while there is still time; then you will become children of the light." Jesus Christ | John 12:35-36 (NLT)



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~ DAN B. Life Mission: Shaping radical existence in the everyday



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Watch Your Fear Fall Away!

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