

Chapter 19. THE LIFE AND THE LIGHT.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. – John 1:1,4

"He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the Light of Life."

– John 8:12

Because Christ was God, He could be the Word of God. Because He had the Life of God in Himself, He could be the Revealer of that Life. And so, as the Living Word, He is the Life-giving Word. The written Word can be empty and useless if one trusts in human wisdom to understand it. It is only when a person accepts it as the seed, in which the life of the Living Word is hidden, waiting to be awakened and given life by the Holy Spirit, that it can become the Word of Life to us. Our interaction with God's written Word must always be inspired and controlled by faith in the Eternal Word, Who is God.

The same truth is revealed in the expression: The Life is the Light. When we see light shining, we know that there is a fire burning in some or another form. In the spiritual world it is similar. There must be life before there can be light. Light may reflect from a dead or dark object. Light may be borrowed without life. But only life can start light. Christ is the true life, and He alone has and gives the Light of Life.

These two statements of one great truth, confirm what we learnt about the Spirit of God. The Spirit knows the things of God because He is the life of God. Christ is the Word because He is God and has the life of God. In this way the light of God only shines where the life of God is. All three these thoughts bring us to what our study wants to teach us – that the life of the Eternal Word, shines its light in the heart, that the written Word can come to life. It is only as the Holy Spirit, Who knows the things of God because He is the life of God, makes the written Word life and truth within us, that our study of the Bible can really bless us.

The one great lesson that the Spirit seeks to enforce regarding the Word of God is this – that *it is only when Scripture is received out of the Life of God into our life, that we receive any real knowledge of it.* The Word is a seed that carries within it the Divine Life. If it is received in the good soil of a heart that hungers for God's life, it

will spring up and bring forth fruit, like all seed, "after its kind." The Holy Spirit will reproduce in our life the very life of God, out of which it came, the very likeness, nature and character of the Father and the Son.

Do you want to know how to begin and apply this in your private Bible reading? The rules are very simple.

First: *"Be still and know that I am God." (Ps.46:10).* Take time to be quiet until God makes His presence known. *"Hold your peace at the presence of the Lord." (Zeph.1:7, Zech.2:13) "The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him." (Hab.2:20).* Worship and wait on Him that He may speak to you.

Second: Remember that the Word comes out of the Life. The heart of God imparts His life to your heart. The life of God is in the Word. Only the power of God can make it alive in you.

Third: Believe in Christ the Living Word. *"In Him was life, and the life – His Life, was the light of men." "He who follows Me shall have the light of life."* Follow Jesus in love and longing desire, in obedience and service, and His life will work in you. The Life shall be the Light of your soul.

Then: Ask the Father for the Holy Spirit, *Who alone knows the things of God*, to make the Word in your heart living and active. Hunger for the will of God as your daily food. Thirst for the living fountain of the Spirit within you. Receive the Word into your will, your life, your joy – the life it brings will give the light with which it shines.

The reason I so often insisted upon the truth shared in these last few chapters is very simple. My own experience has taught me how long it takes before we clearly grasp that the Word of God must be received into our lives and not only into the mind before we fully believe it and act upon it. To write the same thing to you is not tedious but for you it is profitable. Study the lesson until you know it. The Word comes out of the life of God, it carries that life in itself, it seeks to enter my life and fill it with the life of God. *This life is the light of men and gives the light of the knowledge of the glory of God.*

You may find that this lesson takes more than you think; that it hinders you more than it helps in your Bible study, and that it becomes more and more difficult the longer you study it. Do not be afraid or impatient, but be assured that if you learn it correctly, you will thank God that it has become a key you never had before, to unlock the hidden treasure of the Word, giving you true wisdom in your inner man.

I repeat again the simple words that are so true and inexhaustibly blessed: *As the Spirit that lives in God alone knows the things of God, **it is only the Spirit living in me, that can make me know the things of God by imparting them to my life.***

As Christ was the Word because He was God, and had the life of God, the written Word can only bless me as the Living Word, and through it, brings the life of God to me. As the life was in Christ, and as the Life is the Light of men, so it is only as I have the life of Christ through the written Word that I have the light of the knowledge of God.

Prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, I desire your life and light in my own life. Help me by your Spirit to go from intellectual knowledge of the Word to spiritual knowledge of the Life and Light of God."