

5. Christ challenges us to go
along.
a. Some of you are walking in
darkness because stopped
somewhere
b. The most tragic thing is a
Christian who stopped!
who has not grown
who doesn't grow
who doesn't grow

"Walk in the light! so shall thou know
That fellowship of love
His Spirit only can bestow
Who reigns in light above.

Walk in the light! and thou shalt find
Thy heart made truly His
who dwells in cloudless light enshrined
in whom no darkness is.

Walk in the light! and thou shalt own
Thy darkness passed away.
Because that light hath on thee shone,
in which is perfect day.

Walk in the light! and thine shall be
A path, though thorny, bright:
For God, by grace shall dwell in thee,
And God Himself is light."

PRAYER

2/22/59

O Lord, our heavenly Father, at the beginning of
another week we come to thee for help and light. Grant,
we beseech thee, that we may hallow this day of rest to
thy service, and find in thee all peace and strength.
Quicken our devotion that we may serve thee in spirit and
in truth, and lay a good foundation for our coming work.
Send forth thy truth unto our hearts, and pour upon us
the glory of thy brightness. Grant that we may love and
seek thee always and everywhere, above all things and for
thy sake. Give us contented and trustful hearts, that,
casting all our care on thee we may serve thee with glad-
ness. Make each one of us an instrument in thy hands
for good. Purify our hearts! strengthen our minds and
bodies and fill us with mutual love. Let no pride, no
self-conceit, no rivalry, no dispute, ever spring up
among us. Make us earnest and true, wise and prudent,
giving no cause for offence. May thy holy peace rest upon
us this day cheering us in our work and keeping us faith-
ful.

Help us in spirit and in truth to worship thy great
name, not acknowledging thee in one place or at one time
only, but in every place and at every time, in all we do
and in all we seek, in our work and in our rest, in our
laughter and our tears, in loneliness and in fellowship
in hearts of children and in the wisdom of men. Strength-
en our hearts to obey thy commandments and grant that
we may have light for our lives. Direct our steps this
day and this week that we may adore thee for thy majesty,
follow thee for thy truth, desire thee for thy mercy,
who art the blessed Lord for evermore.

Life crowds us, O Lord. Thou knowest that again and
again we find that we do the things we really do not want
to do. We become the victims, rather than the masters
of our lives. We believe that Thou dost understand us
even when we are misunderstood by those about us. Some
us our tired this morning, some of us our discouraged,
some of us are ashamed. There are others of us who are
confused by the complexity of life and some who are
deceived by false values. Only Thou canst save us.
We believe that whatever our condition that Thou dost
love and care for us. Help us to be the best people
we can be and grant that this my bring us content.

WALK IN THE LIGHT
"I am the light of the world; he who follows me will
not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
John 8:12

The symbol of light is quite universal. Practically
all religions have used this symbol. In primitive
religion light and darkness remain more as realities than
symbols. Primitive man was at a very serious disad-
vantage in darkness and his religion sought through its
ceremonies and its mythology to insure him against the
uncertainty of darkness. In these religion there is the
myth of Yang and Yin - Yang representing heaven, light,
truth, knowledge, and order. Yin - representing ignorance
and darkness. In Buddhism, the Buddha is associated with
light.

This symbol is used through the Old Testament. Psalm
twenty-seven says: "THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND MY SALVATION
WHEN SHALL I FEAR?" In Isaiah we read, "...but the Lord
shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy
glory." Back in the Book of Exodus we find the verse:
"And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a
cloud to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of
fire to give them light." Again in Psalms we find: "For
thou wilt light my candle, the Lord my God will en-
lighten my darkness." Eberstein tells us that "The
Rabbis speak of the original light in which God had wrap-
ped Himself as in a garment and from this light was kindled
the light of the sun, moon, and stars. Then in the New
Testament Jesus is spoken of in terms of light. In the
Gospel according to St. John he is represented as de-
claring, "I am the light of the world."

The setting for this statement is very interesting.
The words are spoken in the Temple, probably on the last
day of the Feast of Tabernacles. This is a harvest fes-
tival. It is also a celebration of God's protection
throughout the history of Israel. Tabernacles, or booths,
are built as a reminder of the wilderness wanderings. Then
in commemoration of "the pillar of fire" that led their
fathers in the desert the people lit large lamps round the
Temple so that the area was very brightly lighted. It
was the custom in ancient times to direct movements of
large bodies of men by suspending a basket of fire from
a tall pole so that the glare of it was visible by night
and its smoke by day. At this feast the people were very
aware of two things - first, light; second, God's
leadership.

There are so many things which concern us. There
are so many persons who need our prayers. We lift our
voices to thee for every good cause and for every needy
person. Give us strength enough to be able to bring
strength to others. Accept our sacrifice of praise and
thanksgiving and do Thou, O God, use this service to do
for us that which is needful. Give us a new vision of
the Eternal Christ that through his life and his suffer-
ings we may be made perfect.

You and I must come to a decision. We must choose
whether we are to walk in darkness or in light. I
knew of a church - Amsterdam - 's long hall we had
to make a connection and then we got light. It never
came until we made the connection. You young people need
to discover this for your lives.

Finally, having made this decision we must walk along.
"WHY THAT FOLLOWER HE SHALL NOT WALK IN DARKNESS." The
whole figure is dynamic rather than static. It is not a
question of finding a shelter-but of going on a journey.

You see the Israelites did not travel a road
already made and used - it was necessary for them to be
guided. Now Jesus is saying - As your fathers
were led to the Promised Land by this eternal light, I
now provide you with a light to guide you through the
darkness and across the desert of life. This idea is
repeated again in the ninth chapter of John and culminates
in the words: "I have come as a light into the world,
that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness."
What does this mean for us today?

First, it means that we given a guide, not a chart.
Throughout time men have sought for truth and wisdom.
In this search most of them have tried to make them-
selves wise. We look for rules. We hope that we shall
find someone who has set down the rules so that we may
follow and achieve what we want to achieve. This is futile.
The other week down at Buck Hill Falls we were getting
ready for breakfast when the lights went out. I happened
to be in the close closet and thought the bulb had
burned out. My room-mate was shaving and stuck his head
around the corner and said, Hey, what is going on. As
we were going in the dining room a group of us were
talking about the lights going out. One member of the
group said, "My goodness, I sure feel sorry for you
boys!" He all stopped short - said nothing - and went
on. I do not know what the others thought, but I shall
never forget those words. To see the man who said them
was blind! He had trained himself to live with an inner
light and was not dependent upon the power company. He
did share that morning without difficulty. He did not
find that his clothes closet was dark.

There are so many times when we come to rely on
directions that are temporary and external and very
fallible. The homeing pigeons not disturbed if the
signposts are down. On the subway I am always intrigued
by the arrangement that provides light in the cars when
the regular circuit is broken. Someway Christ brings to
our lives the sort of continuous light that is independent
of ordinary sources.

Second, we must establish our connection with this
source of light. Kantonen quotes Karl Hein "Is
metaphor that 'lesser solutions are like replacing bulbs
and twiddling with the switch when the fuse is blown and
the lights are out. There will be no light until the
connection with the source of light has been re-established."

The Lord is good unto them that
wait for him
It is good that a man should
both hope and quietly wait
for the salvation of the Lord.