

## LIGHT!

*It is you, O Lord, who lights my lamp; the Lord, my God, lights up my darkness. Psalm 18:28*

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105*

Years and years ago when my family went camping during the summer, the only source of light we had at night was a flashlight. My daughters would always ask me, "Mommy, can't you make more light?" I couldn't. The small circle of light the flashlight provided would only allow us to take a few steps at a time. We had to walk slow and trust that light to show us the path ahead. We all were sort of afraid of the darkness in the campground and all those things that "go bump in the night."

And yet it is about all those experiences, as well as times we find ourselves in darkness, that the compelling words of the Psalmist means so much. Yes, it *is* you, O Lord, who lights up our darkness!

Interestingly, the image the Psalmist uses is that of an oil lamp, whose flickering wick only gives a small light; enough to lighten what is coming next . . . but only that. Could it be God, who knows us through and through and still loves us with unfathomable love, only gives us enough light to see what we can understand and even bear? Could it be God keeps us in the dark for what we are not yet ready to see?

Maybe many are feeling a bit "in the dark" during this long year of the pandemic. What we really need is a huge megawatt bulb, not an oil lamp that only shows us one step at a time. However, God, in His love and mercy, wants us to see

For God who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.  
II Corinthians 4:6

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.  
I John 1:5

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
Isaiah 60:1

The Lord is my light and my salvation; who shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid. Psalm 27:1

So that, with the eyes or your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you. Ephesians 1:18

Him in the dark places--those places where we hurt; where we wonder how we will ever make it through these difficult days. This is a time we need to learn to wait in faith and in hope.

Tonight I find comfort in the words of Brother Curtis when he writes, "We worship God Emmanuel, God With Us, in the day and in the night of our lives; a God who exposes us to as much as we can bear, and one who hides us under a winged shadow for what we are not ready to see or know, where we must wait, perhaps leave behind, or leave undone, or leave unanswered . . . at least for now."

What an awesome God we have, who we love and serve, and God who cares for us and is watching over us at every moment.

So for these moments of this time of our lives, there is so much we don't know. Our prayer can be for help to "walk slow" and "trust" and even "leave unanswered" . . . at least for now.

What we can be hold on to today is that we can know for certain that God's light will illuminate our path as we travel through these days together.

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you;  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you  
and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

I want Jesus to walk  
with me,  
I want Jesus to walk  
with me,  
all along my pilgrim  
journey.  
Lord, I want Jesus to  
walk with me.

In my trials, Lord,  
walk with me.  
In my trials, Lord,  
walk with me.  
When my heart is  
almost breaking,  
Lord, I want Jesus to  
walk with me.

When I'm in  
trouble, Lord, walk  
with me.  
When I'm in  
trouble, Lord, walk  
with me.  
When my head is  
bowed in sorrow,  
Lord, I want Jesus to  
walk with me.

With One Voice