

HIS LIGHT IS SHINING

Isa 42:6 "I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations,

Isa 42:7 to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

This passage in Isaiah is a Messianic prophecy. It foretells what Jesus would do when He came. God the Father is speaking to the Son here. God the Father said to Him that He was called in righteousness and that He would make Him (Jesus) a covenant for the people and a light to the nations (Gentiles). Jesus did not just create a covenant by His death but He Himself **IS** the covenant! He is our light. He is our illumination. I have said this before and I say it again, you can be changed by two ways. You can change either from heat or light. Often we are unwilling to make needed changes until sufficient heat comes into our life that sort of forces a change. We often do not change until the pain of staying where we are is greater than that of changing. This kind of change is not always bad but it is not the highest form of change. The highest form of change comes from light! Instead of heat God wants to transform us by His light. His light comes from spiritual illumination of the Holy Spirit. One of the reasons Jesus came was to open up the eyes of the blind. We know Jesus literally fulfilled this in His ministry, but Jesus offers more than that. He offers spiritual sight and illumination. Many people are in a prison. It is not a literal physical prison but a figurative one. Many are bound by habits and the things of their past. They are bound to unchanging circumstances—circumstances that have been around for a long time and have no sign of leaving any time soon. These circumstances are like a prison. What is so bad about this prison is that it is shrouded in darkness. The darkness is the lack of light. It is the lack of being able to see what caused these circumstances and a lack of being able to change them. Many have lived in such circumstances for so long that they have given up trying to change them. Notice Isaiah goes on to say that Jesus wants to bring out the prisoners that have **sat down** in the darkness. The fact that they are sitting in the darkness shows they have given up. My friend, this is the perfect place to be. When we get

to a place where we run out of our resources and strength then Jesus is ready to come onto the scene. He loves to solve hopeless cases! Are you at that point yet or do you still have hope in your own strength and ability to handle things yourself?

How are you going to get out of this dark place? It will be by the spiritual light of God! He desires to illuminate your situation. He does this by illuminating your heart! He first wants to show you what He has already done for you. Darkness comes from the deception of the enemy. He keeps people in the dark by His deception. When God shines His light into your heart then we will walk free. The lies and deception of the enemy cannot hold you any longer.

Psa 107:16 For he shatters the doors of bronze and cuts in two the bars of iron.

What is the way out of such a prison? Jesus is the Way! He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life! God wants you to see things from the perspective of the cross. Brass is a type of judgment in the Bible. Jesus was judged for you on the cross and the enemy no longer has any right to hold you in His grasps. Too many people are still sin conscious. They are mindful of their past sins and live in condemnation. This keeps them in a prison. A revelation of righteousness frees you! Jesus wants to show you that the gates of brass have already been smashed down by His work on the cross. The gates have been broken down and He has smashed their iron bars. God wants to show us that by what He did at the cross that we are free. I heard of a story about Harry Houdini who proclaimed he could get out of any prison. A new prison asked him to come try to break out. Harry went in and started to work to get himself out of it. He worked for a couple hours but he became exhausted. When he gave up he leaned against the door and it swung open. It was open the whole time! They never locked it! This is what God wants to show you. By what Jesus did on the cross the gates of brass have been broken and the iron bars have been cut in two and you are free. Satan wants you to believe you are bound. You must take authority over Satan and his works and command them to leave. Boldly confess you are free. Whom the Son sets free is free indeed!

Eph 1:17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,

Eph 1:18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

Eph 1:19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might

God wants to illuminate the eyes of your heart. He wants you to see the hope (confident expectation) of your future. He wants you to see what riches have been given to you in your inheritance in Christ. He wants you to see what power is available to you to when you believe in that hope and inheritance. How are we going to lay hold on our future in God? How are we going to enjoy what belongs to us? How do we experience the power of God that breaks every hold the enemy has on us. It is by spiritual wisdom, revelation, and the knowledge of God! That is why Paul prayed that all Christians may receive a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. Spiritual **wisdom** will show us God's hope which is the plan He has for our life. His wisdom will also show us how to achieve it. God's **revelation** will disclose to us what riches have been left us to fulfill that future and the **knowledge of Him** will become the very power that will cause us to fulfill the calling of God and utilize what has been given to us. Again we can change by heat or by light. I choose the light! Pray this prayer in Ephesians chapter 1 often. Ask God to give to your spirit wisdom, revelation, and the knowledge of Him. This will illuminate the darkest of places in your heart and life and cause you to walk free from all the works of the enemy. Is light is shining! Amen!