

Heavenly Sunlight; 1 John 1:5-7

- I. Sunlight ('Sonlight')
 - a. God is light
 - i. We often take this idea and give it a literal meaning
 - ii. The Greek word does mean light in contrast to darkness
 - iii. In contrast to that, the meaning in this text is not physical light, but spiritual light (goodness, righteousness, just, etc.)
 - iv. 1 John 1:5 (ESV) ⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.
 - b. There are quite a few verses that verify this idea
 - i. James 1:17 (ESV) ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.
 - ii. John 8:12 (ESV) ¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
 - iii. John 1:4-9 (ESV) ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.
 - c. It is truly the light of the Son ('Sonlight') that we walk in
- II. Mountains and Vales
 - a. "Walking in sunlight all of my journey, over the mountains, through the deep vale"
 - b. We must walk in the sunlight
 - c. 1 John 1:6 (ESV) ⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.
 - d. We all have mountains and valleys
 - i. Good time, times of plenty, mountaintop experiences
 - ii. Bad times, times of want, valley experiences
 - iii. Suffering is a promise
 - iv. 2 Timothy 3:12 (ESV) ¹² Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,
 - v. No matter where we are, Jesus is there, walking right beside us
 - vi. Hebrews 13:5-6 (ESV) ⁵ Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ⁶ So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"
 - vii. Part of what we call the great commission in Matthew is Jesus' promise to be with us always
 - viii. Matthew 28:20 (ESV) ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- e. Our mountains and our valleys are no surprise to God
 - i. I often think of Joshua and what he must have felt taking over from Moses
 - ii. We get our first introduction to Joshua in Exodus 17 as the Israelites get ready to face the Amalekites
 - iii. In Exodus 24 we read that Joshua went up the mountain with Moses to get the tablets of stone
 - iv. Exodus 24:12–14 (ESV) ¹² The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³ So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴ And he said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them.”
 - v. Joshua was with Moses in the tent of meeting
 - vi. Exodus 33:11 (ESV) ¹¹ Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.
 - vii. Then Moses went up the mountain to die and Joshua is left without his mentor of over 40 years!
 - viii. Is there any wonder that God had to reassure Joshua?
 - ix. In the first 9 verses of the book of Joshua God reassures him 3 times
 - x. Joshua 1:9 (ESV) ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”
 - f. God reassures us, too
 - i. The Omnipotent One knows everything you are going through, good, and bad
 - ii. And, still, He encourages us to walk in the light
 - iii. 1 Thessalonians 5:14–18 (ESV) ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. ¹⁵ See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
 - iv. Psalm 23:4 (ESV) ⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
 - g. We praise God; we continue to walk in the light, walking in ‘Sonshine’ because He is faithful
- III. Never Concealed
- a. “Shadows around me, shadows above me, never conceal my Savior and Guide”
 - b. The Light of the World

- i. John 8:12 (ESV) ¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
 - ii. Jesus could have been referring to the great lamps shining in the temple court during the Feast of Tabernacles
 - iii. Jesus could have been referring to the sun rising over the Mount of Olives
 - iv. Jesus could have been referring to the pillar of fire the led the Israelites out of captivity
 - v. Isaiah 49:6 (ESV) ⁶ he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”
 - vi. Isaiah 42:6 (ESV) 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,
 - vii. Malachi 4:2 (ESV) ² But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.
 - c. No matter how dark it is, even a tiny light will chase the darkness away
 - i. Authors often try to make the dark something palpable, physical
 - ii. They will write that the darkness covered or snuffed out the light
 - iii. Those are just authors trying to write descriptively and captivate their readers
 - iv. Light always chases away the darkness
 - v. John 1:5 (ESV) ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
 - d. This is the reason we are encouraged to walk in the light
- IV. Walking in Sunlight
- a. 1 John 1:7 (ESV) ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
 - b. “Heavenly sunlight, heavenly sunlight, flooding my soul with glory divine”
 - c. “Hallelujah! I am rejoicing, singing His praises, Jesus is mine!”