

Why does God's Word relate to a lamp as well as light; is there a difference?

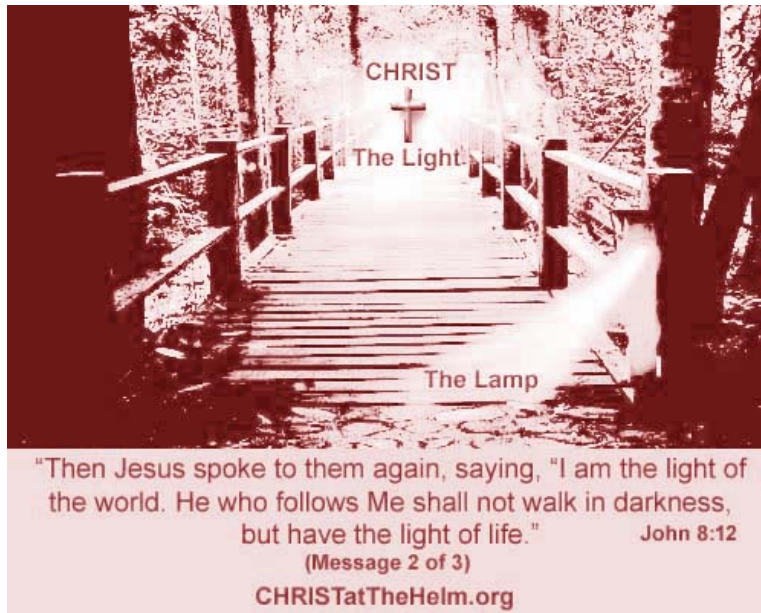
In life, a lamp is used to provide light for ambient purposes, as in a room, but more powerful light is required to point us to our destination, as when driving at night.

Pro 20:27 tells us that "The spirit of a man *is* the lamp of the LORD, searching all the inner depths of his heart." In other words, the Holy Spirit brings to remembrance the Word of God in our hearts, so we can know the steps to God's will. Ps 18:8 adds, "For You will light my lamp; the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness." In essence, the Holy Spirit is the lamp shedding light to guide us step by step with the Lord.

However, to focus on a directional path to follow, we need a more powerful light, as Pro 4:18 says, "But the path of the just *is* like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day." Is 42:16 describes how God leads us through His Word in the path He chooses for us; "I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, and not forsake them."

Is God's Word both a lamp to our feet and a light to our path?

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Obviously, our only true source of spiritual light is found in the Word of God, Christ Jesus. To trust Him and commit to follow Him at His Word brings spiritual victories in our lives rather than defeat.

As 2Peter 1:19 says, "And so we have the prophetic Word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place."

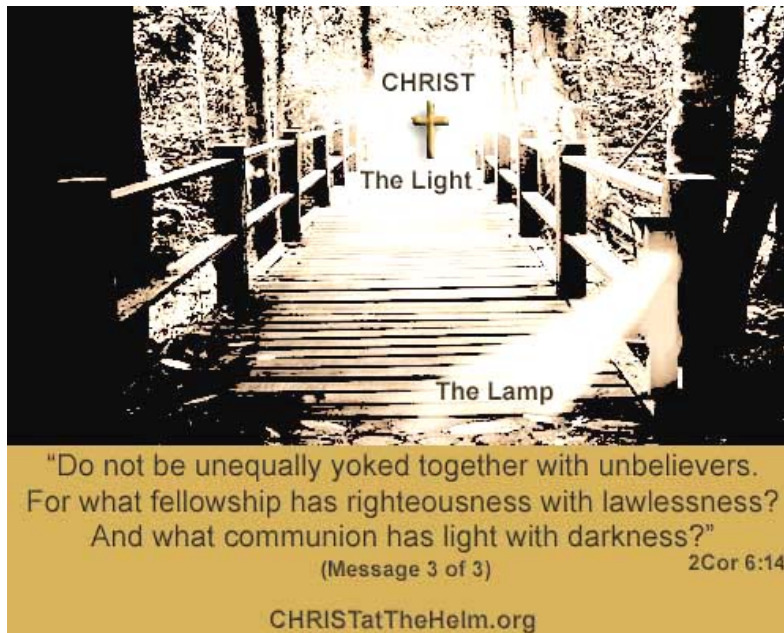
What is the purpose for the light of Christ to shine in us? Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Mat 5:14-16)

In Acts 13:47 Paul quoting from Isaiah 49:6 said, "I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth."

Our mission is clearly to shine and propagate the light of Christ to a dying world. Jesus added in Luke 8:16, "No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts *it* under a bed, but sets *it* on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light."

Does the light of Christ so shine through our lives, that the world can find their way to God through Christ?

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Imagine walking in the forest at night without a source of light; we would find ourselves in trouble fairly quickly, right? In the same vein, when we fail to carry the light of Christ in our hearts through His Word, we can expect the darkness of the world to overcome us.

1John 1:5-7 says, "This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

Therefore, our duty is to carry the light of Christ in our hearts, His Word, to walk the path of righteousness, not fellowship with darkness, and resist temptations to sin.

In Mat 6:22-23 Jesus added, "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great *is* that darkness!"

Do we daily charge our spiritual batteries with God's Word, to be the light of Christ and not fall prey to the deceptions of the world?

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