

O Send Out Thy Light and Thy Truth

Ps. 43:3 – “O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.”

This is in the context of the oppressions of ungodly men and enemies, even of the nation. Though unattributed, it sounds like what David would have written. He calls upon God as his strength and deliverer, and in the end resolves to hope in God and not to allow himself to become discouraged. But the central verse is verse 3.

I would like to look at this more generally, not just in our response to false accusations, misunderstandings, and persecutions, but our living in a world of lies and opposition to God. We are faced with constant lies from the leftist media, from the schools and universities, from politicians, from scientists, from entertainment, and social media. We cannot even believe what we see and hear online, because of AI manipulations of images and even voices. Someone can be shown in situations, or saying things, that never actually happened. AI has even created false news stories to back up false assertions (see the defamation lawsuit of Robby Starbuck vs. Google).

O send out thy light and thy truth

Light and truth will expose what is dark, unclean, shameful, and false. Men love darkness because it hides all that. It should be our prayer that God's Light and Truth go out to expose lies and deceptions, even in our own hearts. From John 1 we see that the perfect embodiment of both Light and Truth is Jesus Christ.

Jn. 1:6-9 – John the Baptist came “to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”

Jn. 1:14 – “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” Jn. 1:17 - “For the law was given to Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

Jn. 14:6 – “... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

Let the Light and Truth of Christ be sent out in our own individual lives

Our concern should not just be exposing evil in society, but in our own hearts. We can lie to ourselves. It is a vain thing to try to hide sins from God (Ps. 139:1-12). Sadly, we are very good at hiding our sins from ourselves. We congratulate ourselves on being “pretty good”, or “not too bad”, or “basically good”. Mothers are good at this, after a son has been arrested or even killed while committing some crime. “He was really a good boy”. In coming to Christ we must recognize, confess, and renounce our sins – not just the overt acts, but the corrupt and sinful nature that spawns the evil words and actions.

Ps. 51:1-3 – “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.”

Coming to Christ involves a lifetime of learning, confessing, forsaking, and adjusting. God forgives us, but doesn't instantly make us perfect. We walk in the light he has given us, and over time he shows us other things in our lives that must be eliminated or purified. We must undergo a continual, or repeated washing by the blood of Christ. When Christ, as the Light, exposes some attitude, action, belief, habit, etc. that displeases him, it is our opportunity and duty to respond and to allow him through the Spirit to cleanse us and to purge out that ungodliness.

Ps. 51:9-12 – “Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.”

Ps. 139:23-24 – “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

2 Cor. 13:5 – “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith, prove your own selves. ...”

Besides this issue of confession and cleansing from sin, we should be praying that God enlighten us to the truth of his Word so that we can more fully understand him, his purpose, his ways, his expectations, his power and wisdom, and to walk in the anointing of the Holy Spirit. He wants us not just to be clean and forgiven, but to experience the “deeper life” in the Spirit.

Eph. 1:17-20 – Paul prayed for them “that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power;”

God also uses the five-fold ministry of Eph. 4 to give us light and truth from the Word, and from a place of personal experience, “till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: ...” (4:11-16)

Let the Light and Truth of Christ be sent out in churches

Certainly there has always been a need for light and truth in the churches, in all times and places. Although a church or denomination may have received great light and truth in the past, it is always susceptible to loss, through negligence or disobedience, or even by false brethren and teachers who sabotage the purity of the church. Old champions of the faith die and are replaced by men who may not have the same zeal, passion, and love of the truth. New Christians don’t automatically gain truth, either doctrinal or experiential – they must be taught, and they must actually live the truth themselves to be able to pass it on to others. This requires new and godly leadership in each generation, men who are “valiant for truth”.

1 Tim. 4:1-2 – “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy: ...” These lies must be recognized, exposed, and warned and preached against from the pulpits of the land. If a pastor or teacher will not stand for truth, the blood of his hearers will be on his head. Why would a man of God not speak the truth? FEAR. Fear of man, fear of the heat he will take for making a godly stand. Why would a man brave the oppositions and attacks of the world and ungodly church members? The fear of God, and the love of Light and Truth.

So we should be praying, not just for today’s pastors and teachers, but also for new men of God to be called to strong and valiant ministry of the Word; new pastors and teachers who want not just to continue the church’s truth, but to expand it, to go beyond in a powerful and holy transmission of Light and Truth to their part of the world. These would be men like Elisha and Timothy. Men who are not content to let their own experience and teaching languish and die out, but to go on to greater levels of truth and power, and then to pass it on to the next generation..

2 Tim. 2:1-2 – “Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

Unfortunately, there are some who want not just to learn and experience more of the truth of the Word and God’s presence, but to invent new “truths” that will gain them notoriety and a following among gullible, naïve, and ungodly listeners.

2 P. 2:1 – “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.”

2 Tim. 4:2-4 – “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

O God, send out thy Light and thy Truth, in my own heart, in this church, and in this generation.