

The Hidden Treasures of Messiah Jesus

A Ventures for Christ Newsletter

To those hungry Disciples who long to intensify and expand their following of the Savior by taking up their cross.

Issue 25

June 2026

Words of Eternal Hidden Wisdom

Our Purpose in His Vision

All Cross Disciples must learn the secret of asking. If they obey, they have the promise of Jesus that He will hear and answer.

And the Lord Jesus Himself says, "I will open My mouth in parables. I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world" (Matt. 13:34-35).



Our Challenge in His Promise

All Christ Disciples meet with other Christians to do two things: come into His presence and joyfully worship Jesus.

"Collect for yourselves treasures in heaven," and prove my eternal wealth is Messiah Jesus in my heart (Matt. 6:19-20).



"All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Him" (Col. 2:2-3), the Apostle Paul.

"But Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart" (Luke 2:19), response of the Virgin Mother.

"You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 2:1-3), the Apostle Paul to Timothy.

"Therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6), Job after being rebuked by the Lord.

The Lordship Cross

Shaping Our Mind, Heart, and Actions to Be Like His (Pt 5)

Pastor McCarty

The Reality of Taking Hold

Last month I told you I wanted to attempt to write on "our application" of His mind. This is our pathway to take hold of Him for the reality of the goal for which He has taken hold of us...faith! To be given the gift of the faith is to be able to talk to the Godhead on your own. Before you are a Christian your highest thought of God was your "Human Brain Power." Once you accept Christ as your Savior and Lord you are a new creation. You have the Spirit of the Godhead in you. This new gift is the "Spirit Mind Power." Remember, you are "a new creation" (II Cor. 5).

Our Application of His Mind

Messiah's attitude resulted in the essence of what it means to be sent by the Father to reveal Messiah Love and what dominated His mind as He sends us (John 17:18, 20:21)! "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5-11). Ponder the Savior's mind about how He desires to live His life...the total absence of "real problems." To do the Father's will in the "long future" will only bring the blessings of heaven. He chose to be:

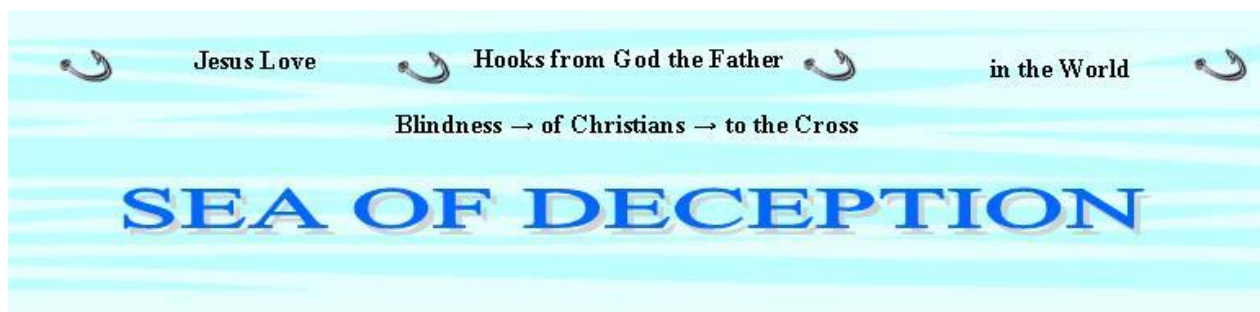
1. **Loving**—My passion is not to exercise My rights but to meet their needs. (See the Face of God and Love others.)
2. **Making**—I will make Myself nothing so the Father can fill everything in Me with His will. (The man full of himself cannot represent the Christ who emptied Himself.¹)
3. **Taking**—I have chosen to take a servant role—even to die like a slave. (There is enormous impact in serving others and keeping your mouth shut.) "I Am among you like a servant." Jesus in Luke. "As a lamb is silent before his shearers..." (Isa. 53:7; Acts 8:32).
4. **Being**—I have limited Myself to human capacity and Am content with what the Father for love has permitted. I have been both reduced and rejected! (First by the Father, and then by men in their ignorance (Isa. 53).)
5. **Finding**—I have demonstrated what a mere man is to do while he lives in a fallen world and yields himself to the Father! (You must

stay alive spiritually even in a bombed-out city.) "Because of the joy He knew was coming, He endured the cross" (Heb. 12:3-4, HDM).

6. **Humbling**—I have no ambition but to do the Father's will! (Only those empty of what's less can be filled with the riches of what's most! (Isa. 53).)

7. **Obeying**—I have accomplished the greatest thing a man can do on earth, “obey God.” (The more you totally yield to Him, the more ultimate living you will experience for yourself!) “Thanks be unto God who always makes us triumphant in Christ and spreads His fragrance through us” (II Cor. 2:14).
8. **Dying**—If my death is necessary for the Father’s will, I will not hesitate to let it happen. Death is irrelevant to the actions of divine love regardless of the joy or suffering that might result. Again, paraphrasing Hebrews 12:2-6! Fix your eyes on Jesus and consider Him!
9. **Crucifying**—My cross is needed—just like Jesus—if I am to embrace humanity for the Father’s sake. (I give My cross to all of you—take it, endure it, follow Me after it, keep seeking it, and waiting for its effect.) “Having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross” (Col. 2:14-15).
10. **Exalting**—My life testifies that only the Father’s kind of thinking and acting truly counts as valuable and eternally lasts! (You will gain everything that the Lord intends and wants for your life (Isa. 53).)

Shaping our minds, hearts, and actions to imitate our glorious and exalted Messiah Lord is my earnest desire for you. Thus, I pray that you will continue to go deeper and deeper into what it means to have His mind! Me too! Let me assure you that the only way to fully and transformingly put on the Mind of Christ is to “take up your cross and follow Him” and that this is possible only as we “take hold” of Him even as He has “taken hold” of us! Please do not hesitate to enter into these deeper realms of Cross Discipleship by “taking hold” of Him! We take hold of Jesus by asking, seeking, and knocking. When He tells us what to do, we listen, obey, and endure! Without these six, the Lord has chosen not to take hold of us!



Notes:

¹ Adapted from a quote by J. Sidlow Baxter. The original quote can be found at <https://gracequotes.org/author-quote/j-sidlow-baxter/>.



The Lord of God of Hosts (armies) or its equivalent is used 72 times in the K.J.V. The first use is in I Samuel 17:45. The Godhead is our Supreme Commander, King, and Leader. He alone is the commanding General of His armies. Each of us should accept, embrace, and endure whatever suffering and hardship is necessary for our training in godliness. We are ready then to fill our place in the line of battle wherever the Commander might put us. He will handle your combat equipment (gifts), your target (calling), and rank of leadership (promotion). And, above all, He will determine the level of sacrifice He deems fit to ask of your crosses. A Cross Disciple will have deeper and demanding crosses to bear. – Pastor McCarty



Light in Our Darkness

Jesus: The Light of the World

Michael Floyd, Editor

"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" (John 8:12)

June brings the longest days of the year. The summer solstice tips the balance of daylight as far toward light as it will go—mornings bright before most of us are awake, evenings that stretch long past dinner. For a few weeks, darkness seems almost reluctant to come.

And yet.

We know darkness the calendar cannot fix. Not the darkness of a power outage or a moonless night, but the kind that settles in behind the eyes—confusion about what's true, the weight of choices we regret, the slow dimming that happens when life doesn't go the way we hoped. The summer solstice is no remedy for that. Neither, if we're honest, is most of what the world offers in its place. More information doesn't dissolve confusion. Distraction doesn't extinguish shame. Optimism doesn't stand up under real grief.

Into precisely that kind of darkness, Jesus makes one of the boldest claims in the Gospels: *I am the light of the world.*

Not *a* Light—*The* Light

The phrasing matters. In the original Greek, Jesus doesn't say He is *a* light among many, or a particularly good guide for those navigating dark places. He says He is *the* light—the single, solitary source. John introduced this claim even before Jesus' ministry began: "In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:4-5).

This is not the language of inspiration. This is the language of origin. The same Word who called light into being at creation is Himself the source of all the light that matters—not just physical light, but truth, clarity, and life itself. Whatever genuine illumination any human being has ever experienced has its source in Him.

And His claim in John 8:12 is a promise, not just a description: *whoever follows me will never walk in darkness.* Not "will avoid some darkness" or "will have better odds." Never. The Greek carries the weight of strong negation ("never never never"). Those who follow Christ will not be left permanently groping in the dark—because the One they're following is the source of light itself.

This claim came immediately after the story of the woman caught in adultery—a story thick with shame, accusation, and the particular darkness of being exposed and condemned. Jesus spoke light into that moment, too: "Neither do I condemn you." He doesn't just shine in darkness. He disperses it.

Eyes Opened

In John 9, Jesus encounters a man who has been blind since birth. The disciples immediately reach for a theological explanation: whose sin caused this? Jesus dismisses the question. The man's blindness is not the result of anyone's failure. It is, instead, an occasion for something: "this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him" (John 9:3).

Then He makes mud, puts it on the man's eyes, and tells him to wash in the Pool of Siloam. The man goes. He washes. He comes back seeing.

The healing is remarkable on its own terms—no one in the entire Old Testament record had ever given sight to someone born blind. But the deeper point is what it demonstrates about who Jesus is and what He came to do. He is not merely a teacher who helps people think more clearly. He is the One who gives sight to people who cannot help themselves, who have been in darkness so long they've never known anything else.

This is the picture of what He does with us. The darkness we're born into—the spiritual blindness Paul describes in Ephesians as being dead in sin, without God and without hope—is not something we work our way out of through better effort or more sincere intention. It requires Someone to come and open our eyes. "While I am in

the world," Jesus said, just before He healed the blind man, "I am the light of the world" (John 9:5). He came precisely for this: to give sight to those who cannot see.

The cross is where this work was completed. At Calvary, the darkness was literal—noon sky turned dark for three hours. And yet it was at that moment that the final, blinding darkness of sin and death was broken. The Light entered the deepest darkness imaginable and was not overcome. Three days later, a tomb that was sealed in darkness became the site of the most light-filled event in human history.

Walk in the Light

Following the Light is not simply agreeing with a set of propositions about Jesus. It is an orientation—a direction of travel. The Apostle John, who recorded the "I am the light" declaration, later described what it looks like in practice: "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, purifies us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

Walking in the light means bringing our lives out of hiding. It means letting what is confused be clarified by truth, letting what is shameful be met by grace instead of managed in the shadows. Darkness thrives on secrecy and isolation. Light—His light—makes both unnecessary.

It also means staying close. The light doesn't diminish when you wander — but your ability to see by it does. Following the Light means staying near the One who is the source—through His Word, through prayer, through the community of believers who are walking in the same direction.

June's long days are a brief gift. They pass. The light always retreats. But the One who called Himself the light of the world is not seasonal, not dependent on the tilt of the earth. He is the true light that gives light to everyone—and darkness, in all its forms, has not overcome Him.

It never will.

[Michael Floyd is Editor of [The Hidden Treasures of Messiah Jesus](#), the monthly newsletter of Ventures for Christ, Inc. You can find more of Michael's content at <http://thegospeltoday.online/>.]



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