



FROM DARKNESS TO MARVELOUS LIGHT
NAVIGATING OUR RISEN LIFE IN CHRIST

WHERE ARE YOU?

DARKNESS



MARVELOUS LIGHT



But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you **out of darkness into his marvelous light.**

(1 Peter 2:9 ESV)

At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, **because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.**

(1 John 2:8 ESV)

But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn,
which shines brighter and brighter until full day.

(Proverbs 4:18 ESV)

OUTLINE: UNDERSTANDING OUR "BEGINNINGS" ...

1. Understanding our representative beginning with Adam and Eve.
2. Understanding our beginning as in our physical birth.
3. Understanding our lives as the result of beginnings #1 and #2.
4. Understanding our beginning as in our spiritual birth.
5. So how do we live as those who are called out of darkness into God's marvelous light?

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- If you do not know **where you are**, then you will not know **where you are going**.
 - If you do not know your **beginning**, then you will not know your **ending**.
 - **So we need to understand our "beginnings" ...**

1. Beginning #1: Our representative beginning with Adam and Eve.

- (Genesis 1:26–27 ESV) Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
- (Genesis 2:18, 21–23 ESV) Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." ... So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was

taken out of Man."

- (Genesis 3:6, 13 ESV) So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."
- (Romans 5:12 ESV) Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.
- (1 Corinthians 15:21–22 ESV) For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.
- (Romans 3:23 ESV) For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

2. Beginning #2: Our physical birth.

- (Psalm 51:5 ESV) Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- (Job 14:1–2 ESV) Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble. 2 He comes out like a flower and withers; he flees like a shadow and continues not.
- **Eliphaz ...** (Job 15:14–16 ESV) What is man, that he can be pure? Or he who is born of a woman, that he can be righteous? 15 Behold, God puts no trust in his holy ones, and the heavens are not pure in his sight; 16 how much less one who is abominable and corrupt, a man who drinks injustice like water!
- **Bildad ...** (Job 25:4–6 ESV) How then can man be in the right before God? How can he who is born of woman be pure? 5 Behold, even the moon is not bright, and the stars are not pure in his eyes; 6 how much less man, who is a maggot, and the son of man, who is a worm!"
- (Isaiah 64:6 ESV) We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

3. Understanding our lives as the result of beginnings #1 and #2.

- (Ephesians 2:1–3 ESV) And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.
- (Ephesians 4:17–18 ESV) Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.
- (Colossians 1:21–22 ESV) And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.
- (Genesis 6:5 ESV) The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (Cf. Genesis 8:21)
- (Psalm 14:1–3 ESV) The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good. 2 The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. 3 They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.
- (Isaiah 53:6 ESV) All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
- (Isaiah 64:6 ESV) We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous

deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

- (Jeremiah 17:9 ESV) The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

4. Beginning #3: Our spiritual birth.

- (John 3:3–6 ESV) Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”
- (1 John 5:1 ESV) Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.
- (1 Corinthians 15:42–49 ESV) So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. 47 The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.
- (1 Corinthians 15:50 ESV) I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

5. So how do we live as those who are called out of darkness into God's marvelous light?

A. We understand that we were indeed "called out of darkness" and that God alone can transform our lives as we do not even know the extent of our sinfulness.

- (Psalm 19:12–14 ESV) Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. 13 Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

B. We understand that we were called "into his marvelous light" and that we need to completely and utterly depend on that light—the holy word of God.

- (Psalm 119:105 ESV) Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- (2 Peter 1:19–21 ESV) And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, 20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
- (Revelation 22:5 ESV) And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. (Cf. *Revelation 21:23*)

C. We understand that we need to walk as children of light.

- (Ephesians 5:7–10 ESV) Therefore do not become partners with them; 8 for

at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), 10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

- (Psalm 18:28 ESV) For it is you who light my lamp; the LORD my God lightens my darkness.
- (Proverbs 6:23 ESV) For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life.
- (Luke 11:34–35 ESV) Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. 35 Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness.
- (John 3:19 ESV) And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.
- (Romans 2:19–21 ESV) And if you are sure that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— 21 you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal?
- (1 John 2:8–9 ESV) At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. 9 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness.