

December 21

Luke 11:33-36 (NRSV)

“No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar, but on the lampstand so that those who enter may see the light. ³⁴ Your eye is the lamp of your body. If your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light; but if it is not healthy, your body is full of darkness. ³⁵ Therefore consider whether the light in you is not darkness. ³⁶ If then your whole body is full of light, with no part of it in darkness, it will be as full of light as when a lamp gives you light with its rays.”

When my eyes are focused on Jesus, His light not only shines on me but within me.

A few years back I had cataract surgery. At first my vision was 20/20 or better, but as time passed my vision became blurry. I needed a laser procedure to remove the cloudiness and restore my vision. The truth is my vision has become blurry again and I am not seeing as clearly as I once did. Darkness definitely diminishes and distorts my vision.

In my heart I know that Jesus is the light of the world, but sometimes I focus on the dark things of this world. With wildfires, hurricanes, poverty, violence, sickness, and the fear and frustration that accompanies them, it is not difficult to be consumed by the darkness. Then there is the darkness which is much more personal in nature. The darkness that comes from sin may include distraction, laziness, apathy, lack of motivation, withdrawal. I need the help of the Holy Spirit to change my perspective.



I am not in denial of difficult circumstances and hardships. But am I able to focus on the fact that God brings light into the dark places of my life? Do I truly see Jesus as greater than any of these challenges that I may face? Am I willing to allow Jesus to give me a laser touch up so that I can see more clearly? Am I willing to open my eyes to the light of Jesus or am I going to stay in the dark?

God's word is the light on my path and the lamp to my feet. When we as believers walk together in the light, we have fellowship with one another. When we open our eyes to allow the light of Christ to shine in us, then we can be a light to others. "And no one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, but puts it on a lampstand so that others may see the light."

Lord, help me focus not on the things of this world, the things around me which are dark and gloomy and only bring despair and fear, but help me focus on Jesus who brings light and life to me and to the world. Shine your light on me and those around me. Your light will bring hope and the ability to see things more clearly.

~ Ruth Sudreth