

## LIVING UNDER THE LIGHT OF HEAVEN

**Text: Acts 26:13-19**

The Apostle Paul had a great encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. Wherever he went, he talked about it. God changed him, and God marked him forever.

I want to speak today about the importance of encountering Him and also about living a life where His face shines on us. I want to speak about living under the light of Heaven, living surrounded by the glow of Heaven, carrying something of Heaven in our lives.

### **I. The light of heaven**

God's light exceeded that of the mid-day sun. The level of that experience exceeded anything you can experience in the natural. An experience with God will exceed, in quality and intensity, anything on offer in the natural.

The encounter was so powerful that overwhelmed Paul and his companions:

**V.14:** *...”and when we had all fallen to the ground”*

### **II. 4 results of an encounter with the light of heaven**

#### **a) Greater revelation of Jesus**

**V.16b:** I have appeared to you... *“to make you a minister both of the things which you have seen and of the things I will yet reveal to you”*

An encounter will always reveal more of God. Revelation is progressive. There is always more!

#### **b) Deliverance and victory over the enemy**

Light shining from heaven is always associated in the NT with deliverance and victory over the enemy

In **Acts 12:7** light shone in the prison and chains fell off Peter's hands and the prison doors were open.

**2 Thessalonians 2:8** says that Jesus will destroy satan *“with the brightness of His coming”*.

In **Acts 26:18** we see how God's plan was to take people *from darkness to light, from the power of satan to God!*

**Romans 13:12** - *The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.*

### c) Physical healing

Light in the NT is associated with healing

**John 9:4-5:** “*as long as I am in the world I am the light of the world*” – Jesus said that after healing a blind man.

**Acts 5:15** Peter’s shadow: it healed because Peter lived under the light that comes from heaven.

### d) Salvation

Light in the NT is always associated with salvation

**Acts 26:15** *“to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.”*

## III. Light is Jesus

**V. 16:** “*For this reason ... I have appeared unto you”*

Paul saw no form, just light. It was Jesus: “*I have appeared unto you*”

**1 John 1:5:** “*God is light and in Him is no darkness at all*”

**John 8:12** – “*I am the light of the world. He who follows me, shall not walk in darkness but have the light of the world*”

**Rev. 21:22,23** – “*The Lamb is its light*”

**2 Corinthians 4:6** – “*For it is God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give light of the knowledge of God in the face of Jesus Christ*”.

## Concluding thoughts

- Let us not simply be content with intellectual information about Jesus but let us seek encounters with Him and grow in the revelation of who He is. No natural experience can match the power of an encounter with the light of heaven.
- We can live with the glow of heaven in our lives.
- We need to seek heaven’s realities – they are superior, more powerful, more glorious.
- We need to release the Light and witness of this Light, which is Jesus Himself. He said: “*so let your light shine before men*” (Matthew 5:16)

God's first words recorded in the Bible: "**let there be light**".

*"The earth was without form and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters. Then God said: Let there be light and there was light".*

**Genesis 1:2-4**

God wants to bring order to the chaos of people's lives. He wants to bring His light into the darkness of their lives.

**Ephesians 5:8** - *For you were once darkness, but now you are **light** in the Lord. Walk as **children of light***

**Philippians 2:15**

*that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,*