

Luke 11:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light.

Analysis

If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light (εἰ οὖν τὸ σῶμα σου ὅλου φωτεινόν, μὴ ἔχον μέρος τι σκοτεινόν, ἔσται φωτεινὸν ὅλου ὡς ὅταν ὁ λύχνος τῇ ἀστραπῇ φωτίζῃ σε)—Jesus describes total illumination, internal consistency where no 'part' (meros) remains in darkness. This represents complete spiritual transformation, not partial enlightenment. The simile compares comprehensive illumination to a lamp's bright flash (astrapē, lightning, sudden brightness).

This concludes Jesus's teaching on spiritual perception (vv.33-36). The solution to darkness isn't more external signs but internal transformation—a 'single' eye (v.34) fixed on God, resulting in total illumination. The Pharisees' problem wasn't lack of evidence but corrupted hearts preventing them from seeing truth.

Historical Context

Ancient oil lamps provided dim, flickering light compared to modern electric lighting. Jesus's reference to a lamp's 'bright shining' (astrapē, the same word for lightning) emphasizes the dramatic, comprehensive illumination God provides to those with pure hearts—stark contrast to fumbling in darkness despite external religious activity.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What areas of your life remain in 'partial darkness' despite claiming faith—hidden sins, unexamined beliefs, areas resisting transformation?
2. How does the promise of total illumination challenge compartmentalized Christianity separating 'spiritual' from 'secular' life?
3. What would it look like for Christ's light to illuminate every corner of your life—thoughts, motives, relationships, possessions?

Interlinear Text

εἰ	οὖν	τὸ	σῶμά	σου	ὅλον	φωτεινὸν	μὴ	ἔχον
If	therefore	G3588	body	thy	the whole	be full of light	no	having
G1487	G3767		G4983	G4675	G3650	G5460	G3361	G2192
τι	μέρος	σκοτεινόν	ἔσται	φωτεινὸν	ὅλον	ώς	ὅταν	
G5100	part	G3313	dark	G4652	shall be	be full of light	the whole	as
					G2071	G5460	G3650	G5613
ό	λύχνος	τῇ	ἀστραπῇ	φωτίζῃ	σε			
G3588	of a candle	G3588	the bright shining	G796	doth give	thee		
					G5461	G4571		

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 20:27 (Parallel theme): The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly.

Proverbs 6:23 (Light): For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

2 Corinthians 4:6 (Light): For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:18 (Parallel theme): But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Colossians 3:16 (Parallel theme): Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Proverbs 1:5 (Parallel theme): A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

Hebrews 5:14 (Parallel theme): But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Isaiah 42:16 (Light): And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

Isaiah 8:20 (Light): To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Ephesians 4:14 (Parallel theme): 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;