

“Take Off Your Mask and Shine!”

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Zorro, the Lone Ranger, Batman, Spiderman, Superman. Every one of these characters wore some sort of mask or costume to hide their identity. Why? To keep themselves from being eliminated by evil people, I guess. Because of this, is it any wonder why some children get really nervous or afraid on Halloween?

All throughout Scripture we see good fighting evil or light fighting the darkness. The battle between darkness and light is the way the Bible begins in Genesis 1 verses 2-3, *“The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.”* Beginning here and continuing throughout Scripture, **God’s Word is filled with Light and Power.**

Turn to Exodus 3. In the Old Testament, the one person God used for this Light and Power was **Moses**. When God called Moses to deliver His people Israel from Egypt, God called to him from a burning bush! Verses 4-5, *“When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”*

God gave Moses what seemed to be an impossible task, but Moses led the people to follow God’s command. Look at Exodus 34. God wanted to make sure the people knew what He required, so He gave them His Ten Commandments. After being in God’s presence, Moses was filled with His Light. Look at verses 29-35, *“When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them. Afterward all the people of Israel came near, and he commanded them all that the LORD had spoken with him in Mount Sinai. And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. Whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses’ face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with him.”* Moses was filled with God’s Shekinah glory!

In the New Testament, the person God used for His Light and Power was His One and Only Son, **Jesus Christ**. In the book of John, Jesus talked about Himself and said, *“I Am the Light of the World. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the Light of life.”*

As we see Light, we realize, **all Light is the Glory of God.** It’s the Light of God’s Love and Grace. This Light has been with mankind since the beginning of time.

God said in the Garden of Eden He would send a Savior. Today, as we look at Transfiguration, we see the Glory of God flowing out of His Son. Jesus is our Healer, Redeemer and Savior. He was the Light that gave guidance as man followed God. God gave the same words that were at Jesus’ Baptism, that said, “Listen to Him!”

This Light is special because **The Light of God separates us from the world.** The world is filled with darkness as the world follows Satan rather than God. Jesus came to bring Light and His crucifixion made a huge difference in the world. He came into darkness and brought the Light of life.

At Jesus' death, darkness gave way to light. Salvation through Him was given to all. The Relationship with God that separated man from God was now destroyed!

God is with His people and He shows His presence. **This Light comes from the Spirit.** It's the Spirit who shows us Jesus Christ and makes our lives different. **It's the Spirit Who makes us Shine with Boldness and Truth.** This comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. Listen to 2 Corinthians 3:18, *"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another."*

The problem is though, that we don't always shine! Sometimes we throw a mask on our face so others won't see God in our lives. We take it off when we need Him, or when we're with other Christians, but then put it back on when we go out of the building and we don't want it to show! God becomes a Spiritual Jack in the Box. We do it because we don't want God's Glory reflected in our lives at the wrong times!

Open to 2 Corinthians 4. Why did Moses put a veil on His face? Why do we mask our faces from time to time? Is it because we have a fear of the unknown, and being out of control? Or is it shame and embarrassment? Our biggest problem is sin! Sin always brings separation. We lose the relationship we had with God! Sin puts distance between God and us. The mask that once kept us out now keeps God out! The mask that keeps people from seeing God in us, also keeps God from working in us!

God loves you, gives you all you'd ever need, and wants more from you as His child and ambassador! He doesn't want you to be behind a mask but outwardly believe in Him and proclaim Him! Look at verses 5-6, *"For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."*

As God's child, follow His command: **Reflect the Light of your Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ!**