

# DOCTRINE OF LIGHT

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## 1. Definition:

- a. Light is a complex scientific puzzle.
- b. Scientists have battled over various theories of what light is for centuries.
- c. The **ancient Greeks** believed that light streamed out of the eye much as water streams out of a hose, the idea being that we see a thing by directing this stream of light to hit it.
- d. In 1668 **Sir Isaac Newton** proposed the theory that light consists of small particles, corpuscles, of matter emitted in all directions in straight lines or rays by a luminous body such as the sun, a burning candle, etc.
- e. At about the same time a Dutch astronomer, **Christian Huychens**, advanced the wave theory of light which states that light radiates from a source in straight lines called rays; and they are perpendicular to the circles called wave fronts. These light waves travel in much the same way as water waves produced when a stone is dropped into still water.
- f. In 1860, **James Maxwell** postulated the theory that visible light, radiant heat, ultraviolet, infrared, and electromagnetic waves are all electromagnetic in nature.
- g. In 1905, a German physicist named **Max Plank** proposed the “quantum theory” which states that light consists of bits of energy, “quanta of energy,” which are also known as photons. According to this theory, light energy is emitted and absorbed in quanta or photons. This is explained by the assumption that the electrons in the atoms revolve in fixed spherical shells, and that any electron when in a particular shell has a definite amount of energy. When electrons fall from a higher energy level to a lower one, they loose energy in the form of light. The same quantity of energy, no more or no less, is required to lift them back again to the higher level.
- h. In 1905, **Albert Einstein** asserted that matter and energy were one and the same thing by the relationship in his now famous equation,  $E=mc^2$ . His research to determine the general theory of relativity is the basis of all modern scientific technology including laser technology.

## 2. Etymology:

- a.  $\phi\omega\varsigma$  - phos – (Greek noun.) light, light bearer, light as the element and sphere of the divine. (Eph. 5:13; John 1:4, 7-9)

- b. φωτεινός - photeinos – (Greek n.) shining, bright, radiant, full of light, illuminated. (Matt. 17:5)
- c. φωτίζω - photidzo – (Greek vb.) to shine, to give light to, to light up, to illuminate, to enlighten, to shed light upon, to reveal. (Rev. 22:5)
- d. אור - 'OR – (Hebrew) 1. noun – light; 2. verb – to be light, to become light, to shine, to give light. (Gen. 1:3, 4)
3. **God created light** out of nothing and therefore God pre-exists light as we understand it from a physics definition – see point #1. (Gen. 1:3)
4. God is described in terms of His creation; **“God is light.”** (1 John 1:5)  
Also, Jesus Christ is said to be **“the light”** in John 1:4.
- a. Light becomes a good illustration of both the **“essence”** and the **“Trinity,”** persons of the Godhead.
- b. Light is **one in essence** or substance, yet it is composed of **three aspects**:
- (1) **Actinic light** or ultraviolet light is not seen nor experienced. This is analogous to God the Father. (1 Tim. 6:16; 1 John 1:5)
  - (2) **Luminiferous light** or visible light is both seen and experienced. This is analogous to God the Son. (John 12:35, 36)
  - (3) **Calorific light** or inferred light is not seen but is experienced. This is analogous to God the Holy Spirit. (Gen. 1:2)
5. **Jesus Christ** as the manifest person of the Godhead **is light**. (John 1:4; 8:12; John 9:5; 12:35, 36)
6. Light in its literal sense is absolutely necessary for man’s existence on the Earth. (Eccl. 11:7; Jer. 31:35)
7. Israel received divine guidance from God during their wilderness experience in the form of the Shekinah Glory cloud, **“light by night.”** (Ex. 13:21, 22; 14:20)
8. The **gospel** is called light. (2 Cor. 4:3, 4; 2 Tim. 1:10; cf. Acts 13:47 and Isa. 49:6)
9. The **evangelist** is called a light. (“the tribes of Jacob,” Isa. 49:6, “Paul and Barnabas,” Acts. 13:47)

10. "Satan disguises himself as an angel of light." (2 Cor. 11:14)
11. Salvation brings the believer out of darkness into light, just as the planet earth was brought out of darkness into light by God. (Luke 1:79; 1 Pet. 2:9; cf. Col. 1:12-14; Gen 1:3)
12. Anyone who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ becomes one of the "**sons of light.**" (John 12:36; 1 Thess. 5:5; cf. "saints in the light," Col 1:12)
13. Believers in fellowship with God, filled with the Holy Spirit, are said to "walk in the light." (1John 1:7; 2:8-10; Eph. 5:8b)
14. Bible Doctrine resident in the souls of believers through study and the ministry of God the Holy Spirit, is portrayed as "the fruit of the light." (Eph. 5:8-10, Psa. 119:105, 130; Prov. 6:23; cf. Psa. 36:9)
15. An edification complex of the soul of each believer is constructed from the light of Bible doctrine. (Psa. 43:3; 119:130; Rom. 13:12, "the armor of light;" Eph. 5:8a)
16. The mature believer reflects the light of Bible doctrine. (Matt. 5:14, 16; 2 Cor. 4:6)
17. The **glory of God** will illuminate the new Jerusalem "and its lamp, the Lamb," the Lord Jesus Christ, "and the nations will walk by its light..." (Rev. 21:24)
18. Believers in eternity will have an illumination from the glory of the Lord God. (Rev. 22:5; Daniel 12:2, 3)