



THE PERSON OF CHRIST

WORKSHEET - EPISODE 10 *Light*

“I am the light of the world”

1. Every darkness of evil is dissipated by the light of Christ: such darkness cannot comprehend him, and it cannot overcome him ([John 1:4–5](#))
 - Each of us is summoned by Christ the Light to be enlightened with his own divine life.
 - Though this call is common to every human being, his life is not forced upon us.
 - We first fully enter his light through the illumination of holy baptism. In baptism the call becomes a reality.
 - To remain in his saving light is to live in accordance with his light-filled commandments (see [Proverbs 6:23](#), [Psalm 119:105–106, 130](#)). The inaugural commandment of Christ’s earthly ministry is repentance ([Matthew 4:17](#)), which always throws open the doors to God’s light.

What light is this?

1. The light that shone from Christ at the Transfiguration was the uncreated light of the Godhead, the light of the kingdom to come. This is the light we seek.
 - In the fourteenth century a theological debate broke out over the nature of the light beheld by the disciples on Mount Thabor. The Church clarified that this was not just a very bright physical light that came in and out of existence, or an intellectual “light of the mind.” It was rather the uncreated light of divinity—shared by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—that was revealed and disclosed at the Transfiguration. This deifying light is none other than God’s own life, offered to the world through the humanity of Christ. The disciples were receiving a foretaste of the kingdom of heaven.
 - While our experience of God’s light may not be as strong as that of the apostles and saints, we nonetheless have access to it here and now in the life of the Church. We must not diminish our understanding of the glory that God wishes to bestow on us, just because we do not measure up to it. Otherwise we will end up twisting the Gospel and reducing its meaning to the fulfillment of our own personal desires. We must instead walk by faith and humility, knowing that God indeed wishes to make us “partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light” (see [Colossians 1:9–12](#)).

Reflection & Discussion

1. Why do we call baptism an “illumination”? How does it differ from the “enlightenment” that accompanies everyone born into the world?
2. Is it possible to cling to darkness even after we have seen the light? How can we find ways to prefer light rather than darkness? (see [John 3:19](#))

Further reading

1. [Mark 9:1–10](#)
2. [Light on the Mountain](#) (SVS Press, 2013)