

January 20, 2024

The Lord wants you to live in His light.

Isa. 60:1-3 *Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and His glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. (NIV)*

Not only is this an exhortation to the city of Jerusalem, but in turn it is now apropos for all of God's children. We have been grafted into the tree of life through Jesus our LORD. As believers, we certainly see that the world has become very dark and foreboding. We are not allowed to live passive lives. We have been bought with a price and so we should show the light of Christ in the darkness of this world.

This is a dual command; **arise** and **shine**. The word **arise** is the Hebrew word *kumi* which means to stand up and stand firm. Do not let the things of this world 'knock' you down. This means to be planted firmly on the foundation of Jesus Christ our Cornerstone. We must be built on a firm foundation. We cannot allow the worldly winds and rains wash us away. One of the deacons of our church loves how **1 Cor. 15:58** puts it: *Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (NIV)*

The Hebrew word for **shine** is *ovri* which mean to become light. We were not born as light from a young age, but we have become light when we were born again. His light takes residence within us so that we can illuminate those around us with His light of love. Take the opportunities that He gives us today to be light in the thick darkness that covers this earth. Light will draw nations and kings.

Dear LORD, we live in such a dark world, but we have the light of the LORD within us. Help us not to keep Your light covered. Help us to allow You to illuminate everyone and everything around us. In Jesus Name, Amen