



Lent: Let's Walk In The Light

Therese Wilson Favors

As the world turns and time moves forward, many situations impact our lives. Because of these situations, several directions and choices for life loom before us. Just one day's worth of news reported via television or newspapers can put a person into a panic mode. It appears that the whole world is in the intensive care unit and hope for full recovery seems slim. These are the times when the situation at hand demands more than what we have. Our capacity to save ourselves is beyond ourselves. We look for new direction and a profound purpose. We seek the Savior, the Redeemer, the Liberator. During Lent we make the conscious decision to walk in His light because it is too slippery and dangerous to walk in this dark world without Jesus. Our God can make the crooked ways straight. Lent can become that opportunity to gain a new direction in life and a rich purpose built on a relationship with Christ.

'Tis the season to get it right with God. As we journey through this Lenten season, may I propose a few steps to follow.

First, let's undergo some spiritual laser surgery and take a fresh new look of who Jesus is and what he has in mind for us. Let's look at scripture and read and meditate on one of the Gospels during Lent. Jesus centered much of his ministry in restoring sight to the blind. This restoration of sight becomes proof positive that our God wants us to see more in life. Spiritual laser surgery will allow us to obtain a keen vision so that we can clearly see where God wants to take us.

Secondly, let's snatch the covers off of doubt in our love affair with Jesus. When we snatch these covers off, we move from sleepwalking to strong-faith-walking with Jesus. As I look at scripture, when doubt shows up it is always followed by confusion. Even the strongest in faith have periods of doubt and confusion. We won't know our direction and purpose if we continue the dance of doubt to the music of confusion. Let's claim right now that our God is able and victory is ours, in the name of Jesus. In our reading and contemplation of scripture we can build up our trust in what Jesus has done, is doing and will do for us!

Our last Lenten step requires us to stand up for Jesus. Here we join our Jesus in His mission of transformation and truth. Luke 4: 14-22 reports Jesus saying, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind. He has sent me to set the oppressed free and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." In our walk with Jesus this too becomes our purpose for living. But before we become conductors on the train towards transformation, we must become transformed ourselves. We must take those shackles of doubt and confusion off our feet. Only then are we able to stand strong and take with conviction that ultimate truth of redemption in Jesus the Christ. Let's allow Jesus to push us towards higher ground this Lenten season.

Our direction can become clear during Lent and our purpose can become richer if we put our whole heart and soul into our walk with Christ. St. Augustine of Hippo says ... "You cannot think your way to God, or use wisdom alone. You must use your heart." If today you hear God's voice, harden not your heart."

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The Church and its liturgical theology realizes that there comes a time in each Christian's life that the urge to seek salvation is so intense. This desire to take a closer walk with Jesus is compelling.