

This logos—the power of God—the mind of God—this incredible wholeness of God comes to everyone
The power of God that creates and the mind of God that holds everything together has come
The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. John 1:9 NRSV
It is interesting to note that it doesn't say it is available or you can find it in a certain place/way
The Light enlightens everyone
The Light gives light to everyone

We live in a world of divisions... they are all around us—both at a distance and close up
For the Jews—they saw themselves as God's people in contrast to the Gentiles
They were the inside group who belonged
But they didn't just see Gentiles as outsiders—they hated the Gentiles

For the Greek world—they never dreamed that this knowledge of God was for everyone
That this mind of God was accessible to all people

For the Roman world—they looked down on the barbarians and lesser breeds without the law

To all of these groups—John says the Light has come to everyone—absolutely everyone
The Light isn't just for you—but for “them” too!

For the early Quakers in the mid-1600s, this was amazing news
The common belief at that time was that only the chosen were saved
A strong commitment to predestination, meant that God chose some and not others
An issue for people was whether or not they were chosen

But this passage says that the Light comes to everyone
Robert Barclay was a Quaker theologian who lived from 1648-1690
He is most widely known for writing Barclay's Apology
Barclay called John 1:9 the “Quaker text”

Quakers owned this concept so much that they were often called Children of the Light
George Fox followed John's Gospel and identified the Light with the Logos and with Jesus

Early Friends believed that if they waited in the Light and walked in the Light
They would be given the power to overcome sin and live in the Presence of God
If they followed the Light of Christ,
they would be empowered to live up to the measure of Light given to them

Quakers also believed that this Light would come directly to everyone
It didn't need a priest or church or liturgy or any external mechanism to pass it on
Everyone could know God directly and live in the power of Logos and Light present within

For us in 2018, this is amazing news—God comes all the way to us—all of us
God comes all the way to us no matter what we do or say
God stays with us and never leaves us even if we don't recognize God's presence
There are no barriers or things to do/say before the Light comes to us
God comes all the way to us—the Light comes to everyone, everywhere, all the time

Even when we don't recognize it as God—the Light still comes to us
And we often live by this Light—even though we don't recognize the source
On occasion, like the author of John, I am privileged to name this Light for others
To say to them, this Thing you don't understand—that's God
The Light is present to everyone, all the time! – Incredibly good news!!

True, we don't always heed the Light—but it doesn't mean the Light is not present
It is pure gift that we can step into the Light and engage with it
But it is also true that we can walk away from it
However, the Light follows us

In my experience, the Light is never pushy and never demands that we notice
It is simply there, waiting and staying as close as we allow
All the while, bringing Light into our space

For some of us, it has been a dramatic stepping into the Light
For others of us, it has been a slow oozing into the Light, gradually spending more time there
There's not a right way and a wrong way—just an invitation to move towards the Light

“Mind the Light”—Mark Oppenlander taught us this theater concept
The actor must pay attention to the light and mind that one stays in the light, which is on the face
As they move around the stage, it is imperative to know where the light is

For us, we too must “mind the Light” and become increasingly aware of staying in the Light
But when we find ourselves out of the Light, just step back in—nothing more
It's a journey—learning to live in the Light

As we live in this Light—we become children of God—again an extraordinary concept
We enter into intimacy with this Logos and Light—the power of God and mind of God
So, not only is Greek and Hebrew understanding of Logos pointing to the same God
And Jesus is that Logos made flesh and dwelling among us
But you and I can be children of this Logos, living intimately in union with Logos
That is amazing!!

“Deep within us all there is an amazing inner sanctuary of the soul, a holy place, a Divine Center, a speaking Voice, to which we may continuously return. Eternity is at our hearts, pressing upon our time-torn lives, warming us with intimations of an astounding destiny, calling us home unto Itself. Yielding to these persuasions, gladly committing ourselves in body and soul, utterly and completely, to the Light Within, is the beginning of true life. It is a dynamic center, a creative Life that presses to birth within us. It is a Light Within which illumines the face of God and casts new shadows and new glories upon the face of [people]. It is a seed stirring to life if we do not choke it. It is the Shekinah of the soul, the Presence in the midst. Here is the Slumbering Christ, stirring to be awakened, to become the soul we clothe in earthly form and action. And He is within us all.” Thomas Kelly, A Testament of Devotion, Harper and Row, 1941, page 29