

*John 9*

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## Life in the Light

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October 23, 2016



<https://www.lds.org/bible-videos/videos/jesus-heals-a-man-born-blind?lang=eng#gallery=>



## Intro

tell story of cycling in the dark in Spain

to be in the dark

frightening, lost, helpless, hopeless, dangerous



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to be in the dark  
frightening, lost, helpless, hopeless, dangerous



### **The streets of Jerusalem - God knows each of us**

near the temple

a place for beggars

business and impersonal - no name

a picture of all of us

Jesus was there - not an accident -

John had just recorded Jesus' claim to be the light of the world

How does he bring light to the teeming number of individuals in the world

God knows each one of us - no accidents with God



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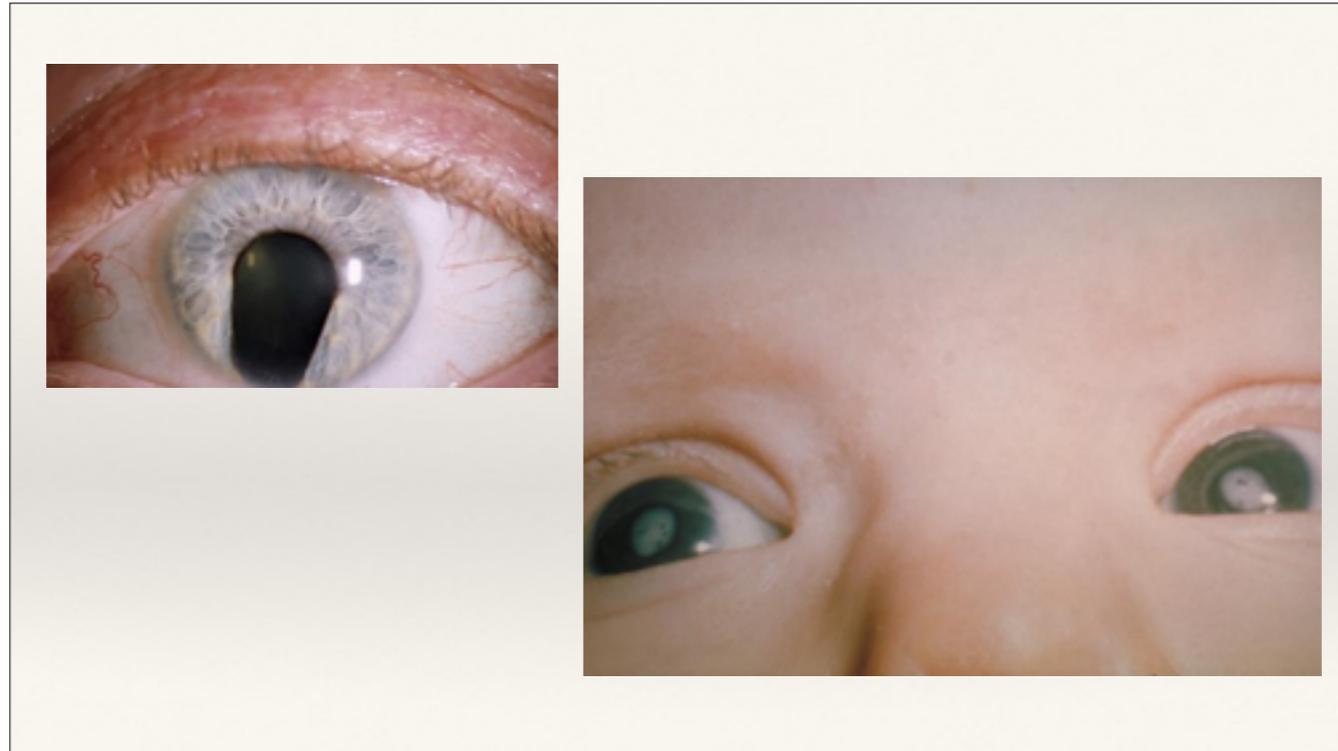
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## **Blind from birth - we are all in the dark**

congenital blindness

number of conditions that result in blindness at birth

congenital malformation of the eye

congenital cataracts

even today difficult to treat

if vision is not restored early in childhood - results in lack of normal development in the brain's visual cortex.

even if sight was restored later in life the brain would not be able to process the information

aside - adult cataracts are quite different - if we live long enough - we will all get them

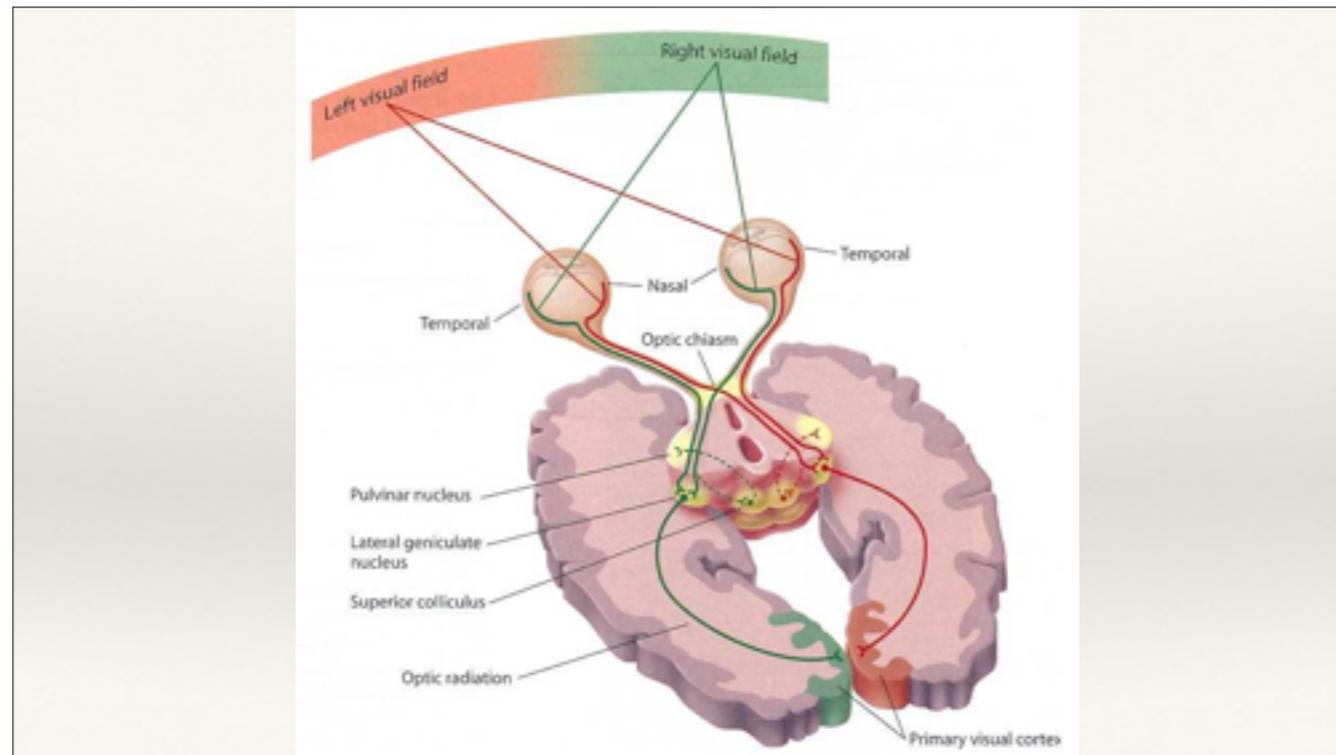
but the treatment for cataracts is one of medicines remarkable success stories.

blindness is often used in the Bible as a metaphor for the spiritual condition of people

lost, in the dark, helpless, trapped, imprisoned

this unnamed man represents all of us in that we are born without spiritual sight

we are in the dark, lost, and unable to help ourselves



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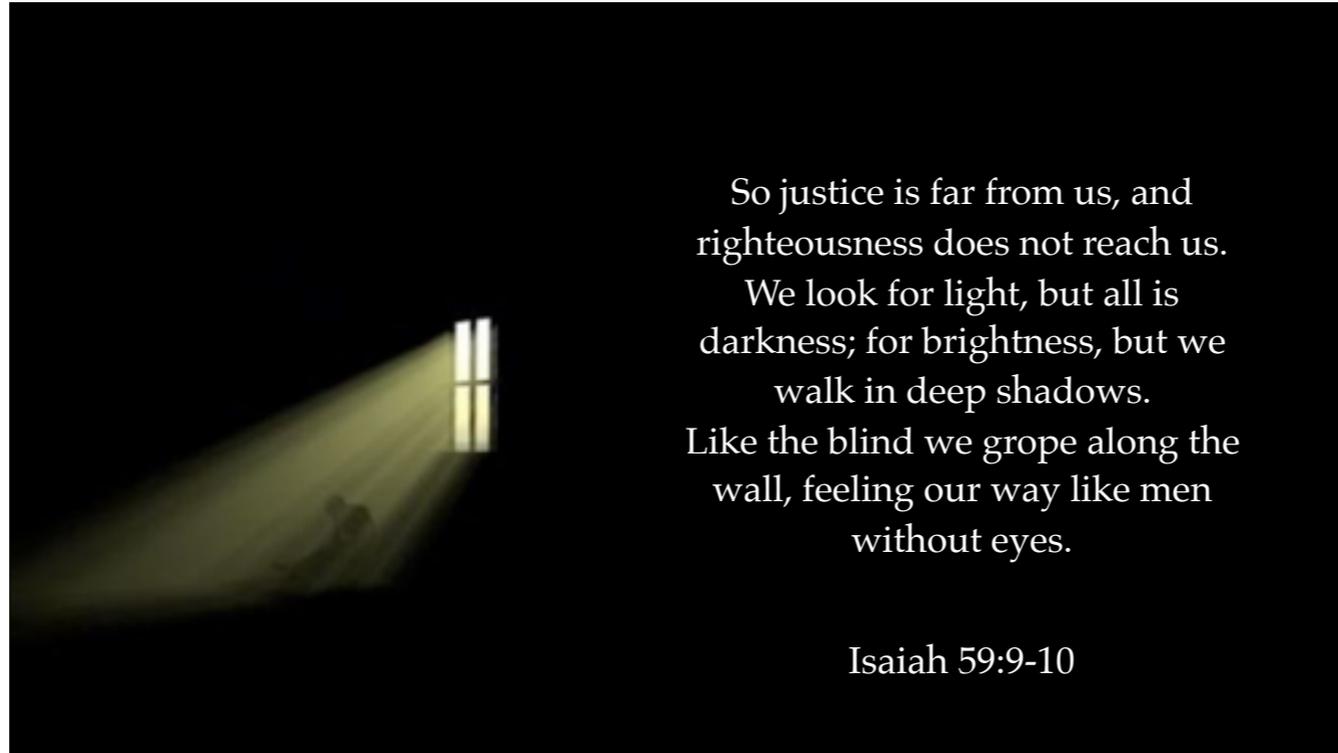


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Isaiah 59

- (1) 9 So justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows.  
10 Like the blind we grope along the wall, feeling our way like men without eyes. At midday we stumble as if it were twilight; among the strong, we are like the dead.



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### **Who is responsible - the purpose of trials - who sinned**

we are quick to judge others

AIDS, earthquakes

we judge ourselves - I must have done something wrong - that is why my children have made wrong choices or I am sick or poor

Job's comforters were like this - repent and God will restore

trials may come so that God's light can be displayed

include Jesus in our difficulties

He is the light of the world - How does His light make a difference

relieves the darkness of the situation



## **He made clay - the need for recreation**

creation connections

light, night, day, world, mouth(spit), clay, water, work, life

The man needed a recreation (regeneration) of his visual organs

we all need to be reborn, made new, new creation

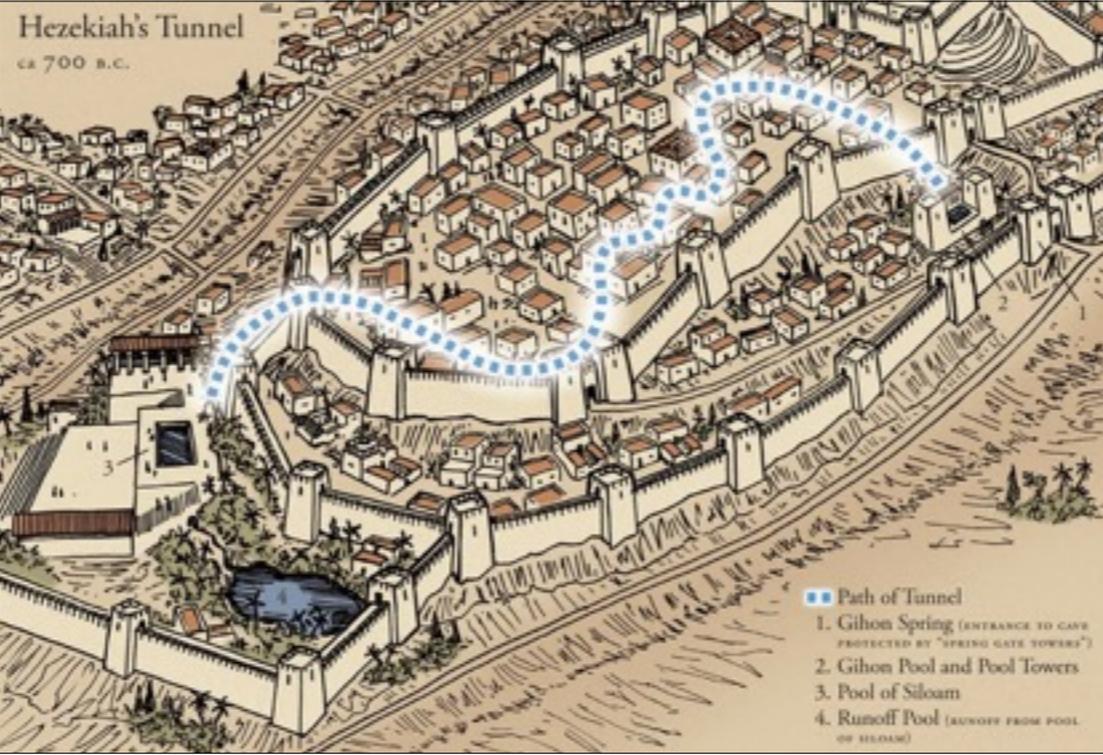
we need God's work in our lives to bring us from death to life



need to faith - to believe - go and wash  
what has Jesus done in your life?

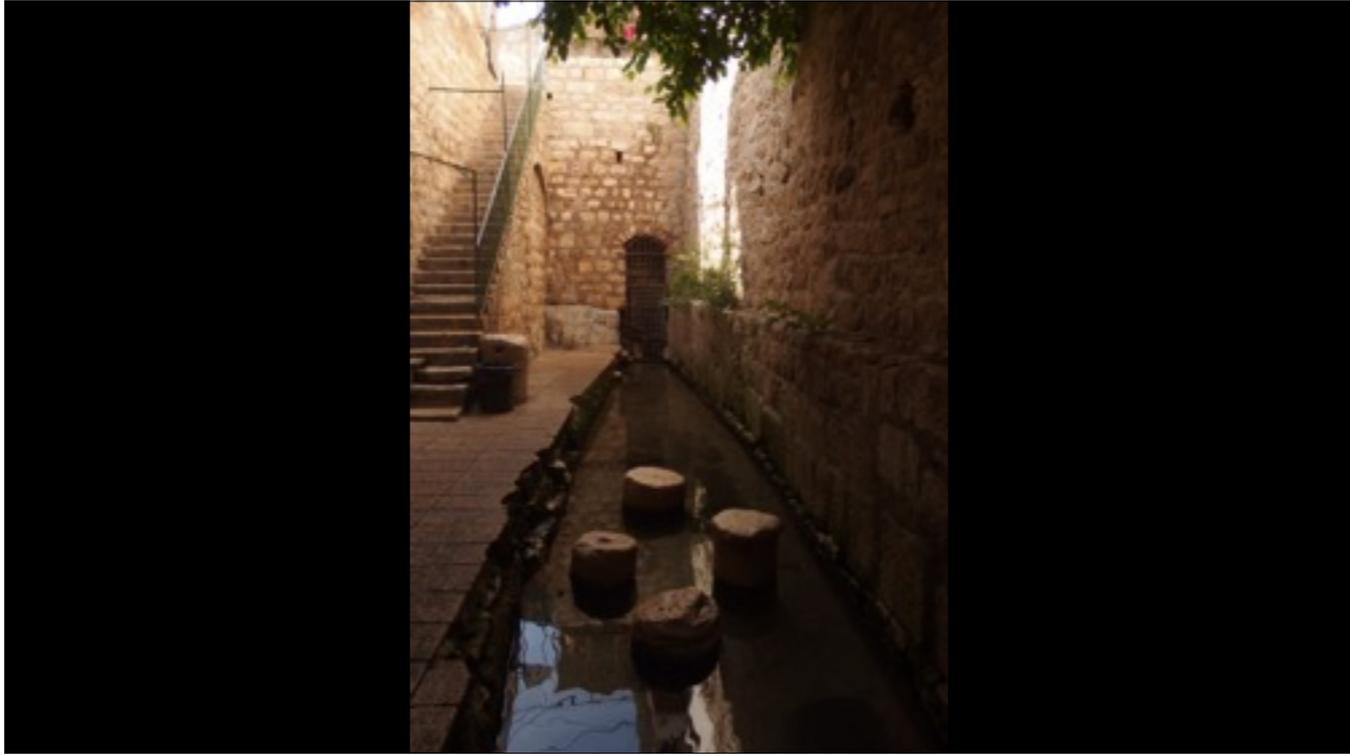
# Hezekiah's Tunnel

ca 700 B.C.















and came home seeing



Isn't this the man - There is something different about him

“soon the town was buzzing”

he can see - it can't be the same guy

how can this be

It was very obvious what the difference was in this man

How are lives different since Jesus made us new?

What do people notice is different about us



### **I was blind but now I see - Testimony**

our man was asked many questions  
by friends, neighbours, pharisees, parents  
how did this happen

who did it

why did it happen on the sabbath

how could a lawbreaker do this

who is Jesus

subject of much opposition - was thrown out of the meeting place

how do we tell people what Jesus has done for us

what do we tell others about Jesus - who is He

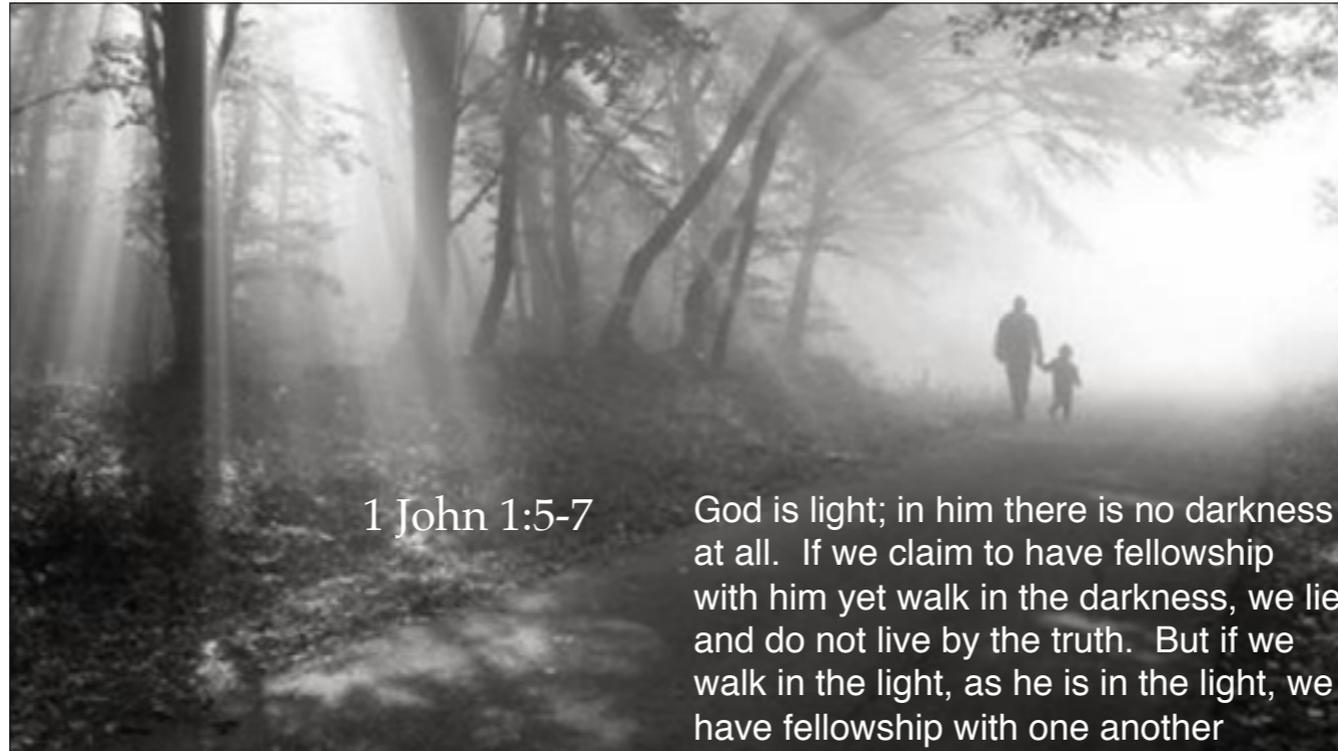
Jesus came back and revealed more about himself to the man

we need to learn more about Jesus - meet with Him - learning more daily



### **the blind will see - life in the light**

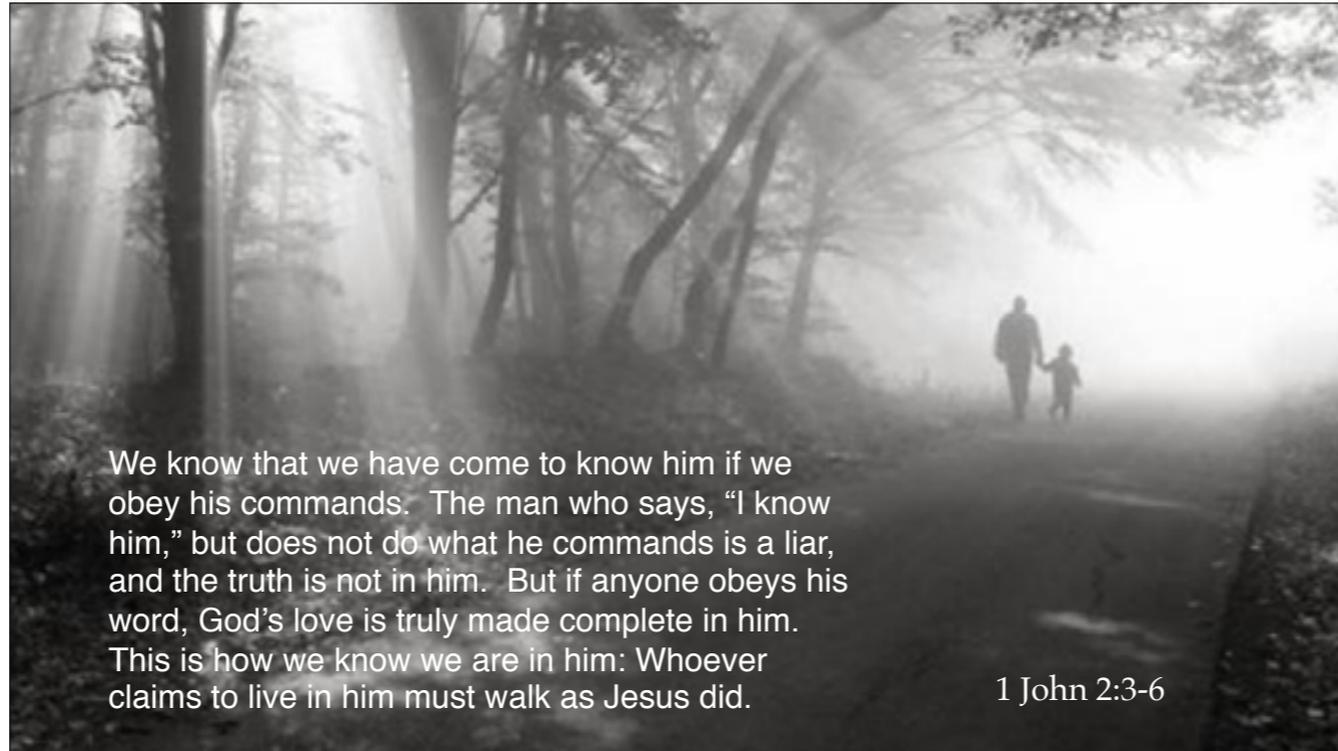
the question arose as to who was blind and who could see  
those who think that they can see without Jesus remain in the dark  
Jesus is the light - if we chose to go on our own we will be like blind people  
those who turn their backs on Jesus will be looking into the dark  
is it possible for those who have come to Jesus to walk in the dark?



1 John 1:5-7

God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another

John often wrote about this theme of light and dark  
in John's first letter, he writes that if we walk in the darkness we do not live by the truth - 1John 1:5-7  
if we walk in the light we have fellowship with Him



We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

1 John 2:3-6

what characterizes a walk in the light

whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did - 1John 2:6

Love one another - as I have loved you

by this everyone will know that you are my disciples - John 13:34



1 John 2:9-11

Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

1John 2:9-11 - loves his brother - light

hates his brother - dark - blind

the very people who took great pride in keeping the commandments did not love the man who received his sight

the did not rejoice in his new life

they accused him of sin and ignorance

the cut off contact with him

they remained blind and were not walking in the light

the older brother of the prodigal son - did not love his brother

are we walking in the light

to love like Jesus is a sacrificial love - we give of ourselves as he gave

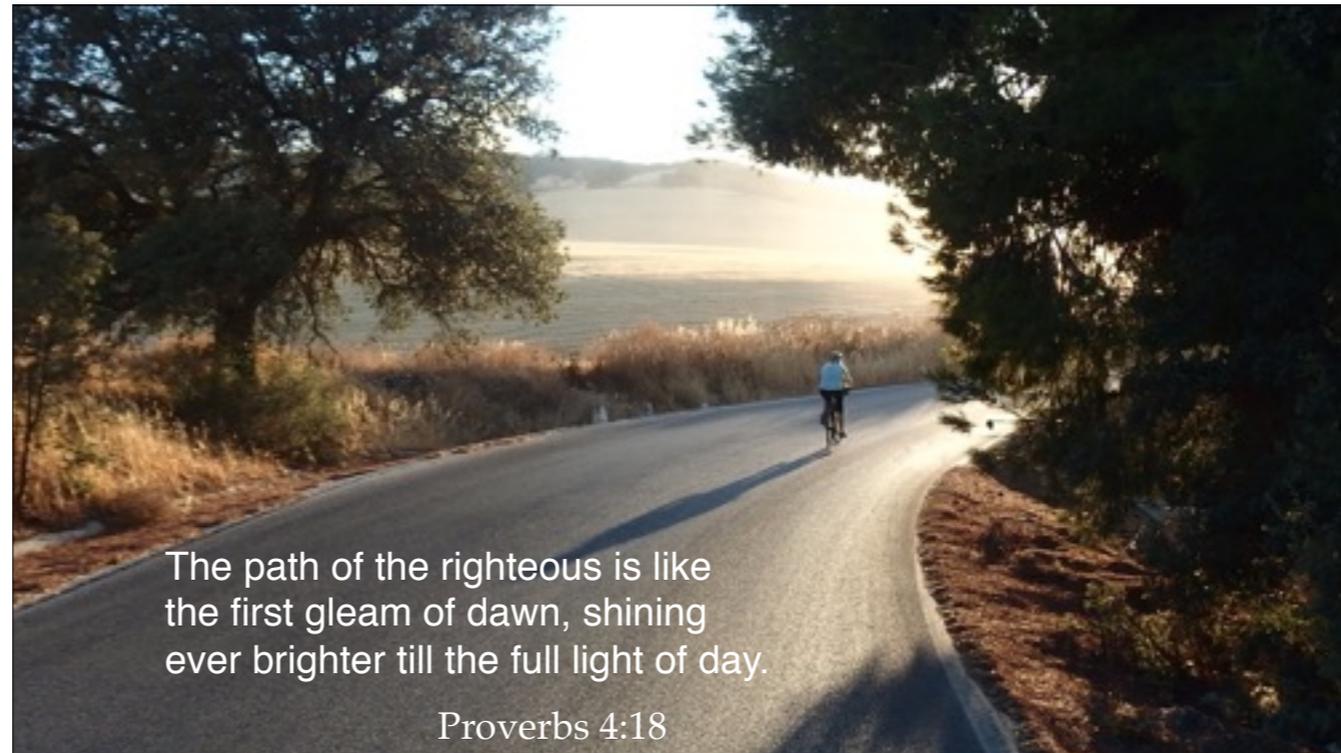
do we love our neighbours, those we meet daily, those in need, our spouses

if we act selfishly or self-centred we are not looking like Jesus

do we criticize our fellow believers

Jesus said that if we call our brother a fool - it is like killing him

this is walking in darkness



life in the light looks a lot like Jesus' life  
we need to keep our eyes on him and follow him.

