

Diving Deeper into Discipleship

December 19, 2021 | Pastor Pete Fowler

Stepping Into the Light: The Word, The Light, The Son

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Worship Christ for His majesty—the eternal and supreme Creator and Sustainer who is strong enough to overcome any darkness.
- Thank Christ for His humility—His willingness to take upon Himself the flesh of humanity, while being unrecognized and rejected, in order to fulfill God's plans for salvation.
- Pray for someone you know who still needs to step into the light and "come to a knowledge of the truth."
- Are you living in the light and life of Jesus? Have you accepted the invitation to become a child of God?

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **John 18:28-40** | How does this passage reveal some of the themes from the sermon: the majesty and humility of Jesus, as well as being unrecognized and rejected?
- **Galatians 3:26-29** | What do we learn from this passage about becoming children of God?
- **Isaiah 53:1-12** | Based on this prophetic chapter, should we be surprised that Jesus wasn't accepted or more easily recognized? Why or why not?

Weekly Spiritual Practice

December Practice: Study | Comprehension (from *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, pg. 64-65)

- Study is a specific kind of experience in which through careful attention to reality the mind is enabled to move in a certain direction. The mind will always take on an order conforming to the order upon which it concentrates. Perhaps we observe a tree or read a book. We see it, feel it, understand it, draw conclusions from it. When this is done with concentration, perception and repetition, ingrained habits of thought are formed.
- Study involves four steps. Comprehension then is the third step in the discipline of study. Jesus, as you remember, reminds us that it is not just the truth but the knowledge of the truth that sets us free (John 8:32). Comprehension focuses on the knowledge of the truth. All of us have had the experience of reading something over and over and then, all of a sudden, we understand what it means. This "eureka" experience of understanding catapults us onto a new level of growth and freedom. It leads to insight and discernment. It provides the basis for a true perception of reality.