



The Age of Light

from

Islands of Light

Glenn Clark

1936

Pt 1 of 4

Glenn Clark, founder of the worldwide prayer movement Farthest Out, was a professor of literature and a highly successful athletic coach.



A Christian mystic and a man of prayer and deep faith, he authored dozens of books and other writings on creative spiritual living.

The prayer movement continues to spread through camps, retreats, the planting of prayer groups and service groups.

Glenn Clark's prayer life had a progression of growth and depth. His writings each emphasize our individual prayer life and spiritual growth while focusing on developing a world view and praying for peace.

In *Islands of Light* he explores Light as a Source, a Doorway and a Path to experience meaning in life through "turning on the light" of living prayer as taught by Jesus.

Islands of Light has been edited into four parts:

- Part 1 The Age of Light
- Part 2 The Search for Light
- Part 3 Social Vision
- Part 4 Afterword ~ More from Glenn Clark

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handiwork and praise the genius of its maker. Instead they took the invention as something not merely to be *admired*, but as something to be *used* in the practical affairs of life. So they applied themselves faithfully and industriously to the reproducing of thousands, yes, millions of other bulbs like unto it, until the light of these millions of bulbs has lighted the world.

We, as disciples of Jesus, have a choice between two ways in which we can take this great event that happened two thousand years ago in the upper room in Galilee. We can participate in it as a mere ecclesiastical form, a religious rite, separate from life, which we can reproduce and enjoy at stated intervals; we may bow in adoration before the great, incandescent, transfigured Author of the little drama of the upper room and then immediately forget Him and the far-reaching implications of the event the moment the church doors close behind us. Or, on the other hand, we may enter into the experience as a vital part of our religious life, experiencing the cleansing of sin, and become filled with the living Christ. We may accept it as an invitation and a challenge to be made incandescent and filled with light as Christ was incandescent and filled with the light of God's love.

Think what would happen in this old world if every one who partook of the Lord's Supper in the sanctuary of the church would go forth carrying the Light of the Christ consciousness within his own soul.



THE WHOLE WORLD
WOULD BE FULL OF LIGHT!

THE AGE OF LIGHT

I remember sitting in my home with my wife and three children a few years ago listening to a radio broadcast commemorating the fifty years of light ushered in by Edison's discovery of the incandescent light bulb. The lights of our house were turned off, as were those of the neighbors' houses; in fact, by request of the sponsors of the event, lights were turned off all over the land. The street lamps of our city were off. Nothing around us but total darkness. Then a voice entering the room from far away spoke:

Now Mr. Edison is coming into his old laboratory, reproduced as a surprise for him by Henry Ford. An old assistant, the only one living of those who helped him at that time, is with him. Edison turns to the bulb that they are experimenting with to see if it has been rendered incandescent yet. Together they look at it. Edison shakes his head. It is not ready for the current. After a while he looks again. Again he shakes his head. The bulb is not yet emptied of the atmosphere of the room sufficiently to hold the current of pure light.

And as the voice went on, it suddenly occurred to me, what if Edison fails? What if the bulb fails? What if it can not be emptied of itself, and cleansed of its own little atmosphere to bear the blinding flame of light and power it is to carry to a waiting darkened world. What would happen if it failed?

But again the voice is breaking in upon my meditation.

Edison turns and looks again. He appears excited. 'It is ready!' he exclaims. His hand trembles. And then in a clear voice he commands, 'Release the power, open the circuit ...

TURN ON THE LIGHT!

Immediately the lights on the street flash on. The bells and whistles in St. Paul sound forth. My children run from room to room turning on lights. All down the street in all the houses lights are flashing on. THE AGE OF LIGHT HAS COME!

Now let us tune our radio in to another station in human history. Let us get still, silence our thoughts, and turn off our lights, and reproduce for ourselves, not an event of fifty years ago, but an

event of two thousand years ago. We do not hear the voice of Graham MacNamee broadcasting the picture, but we hear another voice, just as clear, the voice of the Apostle John:

He rises from supper, and lays aside His garments; and takes a towel, and girds Himself. After that He pours water into a basin, and begins to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. Then He came to Simon Peter: and Peter says unto Him, Lord, are you going to wash my feet? Jesus answers him, If I wash you not, you have no part with me. Simon Peter says to Him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. Jesus says to him, He that is bathed doesn't need to bathe again except for the feet. After He washed their feet, he said, Do you know what I have done to you?

Can we answer that last question? Do we know what Jesus has done in this last momentous hour?

He did to His disciples what Edison did to his bulb of glass. Edison washed all the air out of it, he cleansed it of the heavy inflammable atmosphere of the outer room, he emptied it of itself so that it could be an instrument of a power greater than itself. That is what Jesus did when he washed the feet of His disciples in that upper room. He cleansed them of their little selves. He washed from them the dirt and dust of materialism and selfishness that they might be incandescent enough to be carriers of Light to a darkened world.

And what if He had failed!

What if no one in that upper room were humble enough and surrendered enough to be rendered incandescent! We know that one of them was not. The voice of John described this one in words that a modern broadcaster could apply with equal force to a family lamp: "He went immediately out and it was night."

What if the light of all the disciples had gone "immediately out," how great would have been the darkness! The age of light would then have been postponed 2000 years.

Fortunately there were some in this inner group who were humble and loving enough to be incandescent. Therefore we are able to hear Jesus' triumphant voice ringing down the ages to all His disciples of all races and of all climes:

"YE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD."

The tremendous truth at the core of all the teachings of Jesus was that He and the Father were one, and that He and the disciples were one. That last night He tried to make that truth clear in two parables: first, that the Father was the vine and we are His branches; the other, that the Father's kingdom was a great house of marvelous beauty in which Jesus had prepared for all of us rooms or mansions. But the climax of that night came when He suddenly ceased speaking in words and began speaking in symbols and actions. Let us tune in again to the great radio of the gospel. This time it is the voice of Matthew speaking:

And as they are eating, Jesus takes bread, and blesses it, and breaks it, and gives it to the disciples, and says, Take, eat; this is my body. And He takes the cup, and gives thanks, and gives it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Here Jesus was turning on the light!

Here He was connecting His disciples with the Great Central Power Station. When He said, "take, eat . . . this is my body and my blood," he was saying, "Assimilate me unto yourselves."

Jesus does not here tell His disciples to take His words into their minds and ponder on them. He tells them to take His very body and blood and live His life for Him. In a little while He was taking His body out of this world, and they would presently be the only bodies on this earth that He possessed. Henceforth they must be His visible body, must think His thoughts, perform His deeds and live His life. Henceforth they must take the light of His life into their souls and let it shine forth unto all the world, not by the mere words they speak, but by the lives they live, even unto the end of the age.

One final lesson we can learn from the practical, efficient, devoted followers of Edison is that they did not rent a hall and place on exhibition the great bulb that was the climax of Edison's historic achievement, where people from all over the world could come and pay admission to admire the wonderful piece of