

"I AM The Light of the World"
John 8:12

Jesus says,

1. I AM The Bread Of Life. (John 6:35) … Dec. 27&28, 2025.
2. **I AM The Light Of The World. (John 8:12)**
3. I AM The Gate. (John 10:9 NIV)… Feb. 21&22, 2026.
4. I AM The Good Shepherd. (John 10:11)… May 2&3, 2026.
5. I AM The Resurrection and The Life. (John 11:25-26)
6. I AM The Way, The Truth, and The Life. (John 14:6)
7. I AM The Vine. (John 15:5)

Main Passage: John 8:12 (CSB)

Jesus spoke to them again: "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life."

Background of "I AM"

The phrase, "I am," is a direct translation of "ego eimi" in Greek.

"Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, "What is his name'? Then what shall I tell them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers – the

God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob – has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation." (Exodus 3:13-15 NIV)

- This is the first occasion on which God reveals his name explicitly – "I AM."
- When Jesus uses the same name for himself, he is literally equating himself with the LORD and declaring himself to be God.
- He is plainly stating that the "I AM" in Old Testament times is here with you and speaking to you right now.

<u>The Setting</u>

- Jesus is teaching either during or immediately after the Feast of Tabernacles.
- It is a celebration of God's provision during the current harvest, while remembering God's faithful provision for their ancestors during their 40-year wilderness journey.
- With all the emblems and ceremonies, they remember the "pillar of fire" that provided light to the Israelites.

"The one without sin among you should be the first to throw a stone at her," as a response to their self-righteous desire for the woman to be stoned to death. One by one, they leave Jesus and the woman.

Then he says to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you? "No one, Lord," she answers. "Neither do I condemn you," says Jesus. "Go, and from now on do not sin anymore." (John 8:10b-11)

They are **"like whitewashed tombs, which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside are full of the bones of the dead and every kind of impurity," as Jesus describes them (Matt 23:27 CSB)**.

What Does It Mean to Follow Jesus?

The Greek word for "follow" is "*akolouthōn*." This word "pictures more than walking behind someone; it denotes a deliberate, whole-person response of attachment, obedience, and ongoing companionship. In the New Testament, it serves as the primary verb for discipleship, encapsulating the life of one who hears Christ's call, abandons competing allegiances, and continues in loyal fellowship with Him" (source: https://biblehub.com/greek/190.htm)

What Does Jesus Do for Us as We Follow Him as the Light of the World?

1. **Jesus Enlightens Our Path.**

   Jesus says, **"Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness**" (John 8:12).

“By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night” (Exodus 13:21 NIV).

“1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God…4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:1, 4-5 NIV).

“Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path” (Psalm 119:105 CSB).

Green Light Words (GO)

These words are clear, direct commands from God for us to do.

Here are some examples:

1. “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind…love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt 22:37, 39 NIV)
2. “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations” (Matt 28:19a CSB)
3. “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matt 5:44 CSB).

Red Light Words (STOP)

These words are clear, direct commands from God for us not to do.

Here are some examples:

1. "Do not commit adultery" (Exod 20:14, Matt 5:27 CSB).
2. "Do not be anxious about anything" (Phil 4:6a NIV).
3. "Do not love the world or anything in the world" (1 John 2:15a NIV).

Yellow Light Words (SLOW DOWN)

These words are given to address disputable matters, also called "gray areas." We need God's wisdom when applying them in our lives.

Here are some examples:

1. "Decide never to put a stumbling block or pitfall in the way of your brother or sister" (Rom 14:13b CSB).
2. "23 Everything is permissible," but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible," but not everything builds up. 24 No one is to seek his own good, but the good of the other person" (1 Cor 10:23-24 CSB).
3. "31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. 32 Give no offense to Jews or Greeks or the church of God, 33 just as I also try to please everyone in everything, not seeking my own benefit, but the benefit of many, so that they may be saved" (1 Cor 10:31-33 CSB).

Some Disputable Matters or Gray Areas:

- Eating meat or only vegetables
- Listening to non-Christian music
- Engaging in entertainment (dancing, movies)
- Using only hymns or contemporary songs for worship
- Although outdated, wearing a mask or not.

1. **Jesus Exposes Our Hearts.**

Jesus says, **"Anyone who follows me…will have the light of life"** (John 8:12).

"The Lord's lamp sheds light on a person's life, searching the innermost parts" (Prov 20:27 CSB)

Jesus says, **"19 This is the judgment: The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone who does evil hates the light and avoids it, so that his deeds may not be exposed. 21 But anyone who lives by the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be shown to be accomplished by God." (John 3:19-21 CSB).**

Matthew 15:18-19 (NIV): **"18 But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. 19 For out of the**

heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander."

<u>Conclusion</u>

Jesus says, **"I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life."**

Let's pray!

Jo Kaminaga (Joel)
Tokyo Baptist Church
Jan 31 & Feb 1, 2026

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