

# "HEAR YE HIM"

## A Devotional Series For Radio

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Evan A. Fry, Radio Minister  
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The Sermon: THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Scripture: Doctrine and Covenants 85:2 (condensed) and 3

This Comforter is the promise which I give unto you of eternal life, even the glory of the celestial kingdom ..... the light of truth, which truth shineth. This is the light of Christ. ... And the light which now shineth, which giveth you light, is through him who enlighteneth your eyes, which is the same light that quickeneth your understandings; which light proceedeth forth from the presence of God, to fill the immensity of space. The light which is in all things; which giveth life to all things; which is the law by which all things are governed; even the power of God who sitteth upon his throne, who is in the bosom of eternity, who is in the midst of all things.

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Light proceedeth forth from the presence of God,  
to fill the immensity of space.

One of the basic concepts I learned in a high school physics class in 1929 was wrong. The error was not the fault of my instructor; it was printed in all the text books and widely accepted as truth. This erroneous concept was that matter was the basis of the universe; that matter was the source of all energy, and probably the source of all life and intelligence. Today, scientists are unanimous in their certainty that energy is basic, and that all matter is the result of energy, rather than the cause of energy.

This about-face in the concepts of science is succinctly and cogently illustrated in this quotation from Sir James Jeans' book "The Mysterious Universe." The quotation was published in the Readers' Digest for July, 1938, as follows: "Thirty years ago, we assumed that we were heading toward an ultimate explanation of the universe as a mechanical reality consisting of a fortuitous jumble of atoms performing meaningless dances for a time under the action of purposeless forces. Into this wholly mechanical world, through the play of the same blind forces, life had stumbled by accident.

"Today there is wide agreement, on the physical side of science approaching unanimity, that the stream of knowledge is heading toward a non-mechanical reality. Mind no longer appears as an accidental intruder into the realm of matter; we are beginning to suspect that it is the creator and governor of matter. The

universe begins to look more like a great thought than a great machine."

Dr. Karl T. Compton, President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said on April 22, 1934: "The universe is constructed of electricity, 99.5 per cent of it positive, and the rest negative." Sir Oliver Lodge says on page 39 of his book, "Science of Today": "What we have to realize, and what we have only discovered in this twentieth century, is that the atom (of which all matter is composed) is wholly composed of electricity. It is a grouping of electrons and protons, and consists of nothing else. Matter has no existence apart from electricity, but electricity can exist apart from matter; it is much the more fundamental of the two." On May 6, 1931, the following appeared in an Editorial in the "Christian Century": "The atom which appeared to be so firm is found to consist of protons and electrons - not solid matter at all, but centers of energy and activity. In the face of these new discoveries the materialistic conception of life became unthinkable .... The universe is seen not to be static, but active; not material, but spiritual; not dead, but living."

On December 30, 1932, the Associated Press carried a story of an interview with Walter Russell, president of the Society of Arts and Sciences. In this interview Dr. Russell pointed out that light is energy -- that solid matter is

also a form of light when the word is used in its broader meaning of radiation. "We have begun to see something tangible and inspiring beyond place, mass, and dimension," said Dr. Russell. "There must be a limitless source of static energy somewhere back of all dynamic expression. ....What we call the spiritual universe may prove to be the static source in space of electric energy." He also quoted Sir James Jeans' statement, that "matter may eventually prove to be pure thought."

It is interesting to note the timing of these several quotations. Most of them are dated in the 1930's -- all of them in approximately the first third of the twentieth century. The change in concept began to come about the turn of the century, but was not yet widely accepted enough to be taught in high school physics classes of 1920.

With those dates in mind, let us turn again to the reading we have brought to you from the Doctrine and Covenants, which is part of a revelation given to Joseph Smith on December 27, 1832. This is almost exactly a hundred years before the interview given by Dr. Russell in December of 1932, and a hundred and six years before Sir James Jeans' book. Joseph Smith was not a scientist; yet in this revelation he declares in the name of the Lord that the Comforter, the Holy Spirit of promise, is the light of Christ which is in all things and through all things. That concept is not peculiar to Joseph Smith; it is found in the Bible, although science never accepted it as true until the beginning of the twentieth century.

The next paragraph is peculiar to Joseph Smith, and contains a concept completely unknown to the scientists of his day: "And the light which now shineth, which giveth you light, is through him who enlighteneth your eyes, which is the same light that quickeneth your understandings; which light proceedeth forth from the presence of God, to fill the immensity of space." This asserts the universality of light. Light is radiation; it is intelligence; it is mind. Scientists call it force, energy, or electricity. This revelation asserts that the light which gives sight to the eyes is essentially the same substance as the light which quickens man's intelligence. The light of God is in the sun, moon, and stars; it is the power by which they are created, ordered, governed, sustained, and upheld. It is the power by which all

things are made, and the very substance of which they are made. This light proceeds from the presence of God -- or in the words of Dr. Russell, the "static source in space of electric energy." Note again now the words of Sir James Jeans, who says that mind (which other men call light, intelligence, force, energy, electricity, or spirit, according to their backgrounds) is "the creator and governor of matter. The universe begins to look more like a great thought than a great machine. Matter may eventually prove to be pure thought." Joseph Smith said that the light which proceeds from the presence of God to fill the immensity of space is "the light which is in all things; which giveth life to all things; which is the law by which all things are governed; even the power of God who sitteth upon his throne, who is in the bosom of eternity, who is in the midst of all things."

To say that matter is light, spirit, energy, or electricity does not mean that matter is unreal, or that it is intangible, or that it does not exist. God is very real. He is the supreme Person. He is light intelligence, truth. He is a part of everything that he has created, and everything that he has created is a part of him. "In him we live and move and have our being." "All things are by him and of him, even God, for ever and ever." He is what Dr. Russell calls a "static source," that is, he remains eternally the same. No expenditure of his mind, his power, his Spirit, can decrease him in the minutest degree, or deplete his light, his power, and his glory.

God has provided what we call "matter" in order that his light, power, glory, and intelligence might be implemented and shown to men, and in order that man's intelligence, light, and power (which are akin to God's) might also be implemented to his fellow man. The elements are the tabernacle of God. The man whose spirit is attuned to God can see God in all the works of his creation, in the laws which govern them, in the intelligence of other men, even in the instinctive intelligence of plants and animals. The man whose spirit is attuned to light and truth will follow the Comforter, the Holy Spirit of promise, as it teaches all things, and guides into all truth. He will accept Jesus Christ -- the highest revelation of God's truth and light and power -- the Light of the world, through whom we may rise in new bodies to a new life in the eternal presence of God, who is the source and end of all light and of all being.