

The Light of Chanukah

Posted by [Martin Fairclough](#) On 12/02/2018

Lexington Park, MD - Christmas and Chanukah share a spiritual message: that it is possible to bring light and hope in a world of darkness, oppression and despair. While children get presents, sing songs and play "dreidel," Chanukah is so much deeper than just the gift giving and the physical act of lighting the 8-branched candelabra, the Menorah.

The holiday celebrated by lighting candles for eight nights--the first night was last night--recalls the victory of a struggle led by a small army of Jews called the Maccabees against the Syrian branch of the mighty Greek empire, the finding of a single jug of consecrated oil to light the Menorah that lasted eight days, and the subsequent rededication (Chanukah in Hebrew) of the Temple in Jerusalem in 165 B.C.E. This "lighting" of the Menorah serves to bring spiritual light, seeing hope where there was only despair. It's about finding the miracles in the little everyday things, and finding the enriching and illuminating light.

In the spirit of the start of this holiday season, here are some quotes about candles and light.

1. "A candle is a small thing. But one candle can light another. And see how its own light increases, as a candle gives its flame to the other. You are such a light."
- Moshe Davis

2. "Kindle the taper like the steadfast star
Ablaze on evening's forehead o'er the Earth
And add each night a lustre till afar
An eightfold splendor shine above thy hearth" - Emma Lazarus

3. "Just as a candle cannot burn without fire, men cannot live without a spiritual life." -Buddha

4. "A thousand candles can be lit from the flame of one candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness can be spread without diminishing that of yourself." - Buddha

5. "Religion is a candle inside a multicolored lantern. Everyone looks through a particular color, but the candle is always there." - Mohammed Naguib

6. "Look at how a single candle can both defy and define the darkness." - Anne Frank

7. "No wonder God chose this dark land to send prophets to, for a candle only shines in the dark." - Rami Ollaik

8. "A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle." - James Keller

And this, the last to help all of us remember to find the light in ourself and in others:

"When life seems to put out every light you have, it is better to light a candle than to complain about the darkness." – Unknown