

Shining the Light as God's People

- **Day One – Read Matthew 5:14-16.** The point that Jesus is making is not to “find fault” for the darkness in this dark world, but to show the solution! It is God’s people living as “the light of the world!” Think about how powerful a small light is, compared to the vast darkness. A very small amount of light can change a very large, dark room. This world needs the light of your life! You may not think you are very significant, but you are!

Pray and ask God to help you shine with his love in your world today. Ask him to use you to bring the light into every situation and relationship that you will affect today.

- **Day Two – Read 1 Peter 2:9 & Ephesians 2:10.** If you receive the gift of salvation through faith in Christ, then you are part of God’s people! You might not think of yourself as a “masterpiece,” or as “God’s special possession,” but you are! And, you are to shine for him by reflecting his love and goodness to others!

Pray and ask God to shine his light of truth and grace in your life today. Ask him to help you reflect the light of his love into the darkest places in your world – to the most needy people, and to the most unresponsive to the gospel. May you shine today for Jesus!

family app

Get in a circle (preferably sitting on the floor) and talk about the qualities of God’s light that can be reflected in our lives. As God has been kind, patient, forgiving, and generous with you, how can you reflect this to others today? How can you do this in practical ways? Talk about what “*proclamation, compassion and justice*” might look like in your life and the lives of those you can touch. Pray.

New Life Lessons

Christmas Eve

December 24th, 2011

Pastor Ron Salsbury

“The Light of God’s People”

Overcoming the Darkness #4

Ephesians 5:8; 1 Peter 2:9; Matthew 5:14-16

(To watch this entire series, go to www.newlifepismo.com Click on “sermons.”)

Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV) ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

The Light of God’s Presence

Joshua 1:9 (NLT) ⁹ The Lord your God is **with you wherever you go.** Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Hebrews 13:5

The Light of God’s Promise

Hebrews 10:23 (NLT) ²³ Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. John 20:21; 2 Peter 1:3-11

The Light of God’s Power

John 1:9, 11-12 (NIV) ⁹ (Jesus) the true light that gives light to every person was coming into the world. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the power to become children of God.

The Light of God's People

1. Ignited By the Spark of Spiritual Life.

John 8:12 (NLT) ¹² Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."
John 3:16-17

John 10:10 (NLT) ¹⁰ The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.
John 4:10

Ephesians 2:1, 4-5 (NIV) ¹ As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved.
Ecclesiastes 3:11b; Romans 1:19-21; Matthew 13:30

Ephesians 5:14b (NIV) ^{14b} "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."
Titus 3:3-7

2. Changing by the Power of Grace.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) ¹⁷ If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

1 John 1:7 (NLT) ⁷ If we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

John 8:31-32 (NLT) ³¹ Jesus said, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. ³² And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
1 Timothy 4:7-8; Titus 2:11-14; 2 Corinthians 9:8

3. Seeking to Reflect the Light of Love.

1 Peter 2:9 (NLT) ⁹ You are God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.
Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11-12; John 13:34; 17:23b; Ephesians 2:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-18; Matthew 5:9

Luke 4:18-19 (NLT) ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, ¹⁹ and that the time of the Lord's favor has come."
Isaiah 61:1-2; 58:6-10a

Proclamation

"Telling the Truth with Grace"

Compassion

"Helping the Hungry and the Homeless"

Justice

"Influencing for a Change"

www.worldvision.org/childhealthnow and www.one.org

2 Corinthians 3:17b-18a (NLT) ^{17b} Wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ^{18a} So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord.

Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT) ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

"Don't curse the darkness - light a candle."

- a Chinese proverb