

Shine – 2

Matthew 5:14

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.”

We are called to be light to a world that desperately needs a relationship with God

- Light has some interesting properties and characteristics
- Light always affects and changes the environment it is released into
- Regardless of where we are in life or the opportunities and challenges we are facing, we are empowered to let our light shine
- The first words God spoke were “Let there be light!”

We cannot deny we live in dark times
A time some argue, is the blackest hour

No Slide: 2 Timothy 3:1–3 (NLT)

- Immorality, Cultural decadence, Infanticide, Racism
- Pornography, Unbridled consumerism, Voyeurism, Materialism
- Terror, Jealousy

No Slide: 2 Timothy 4:1–4 (NLT)

- Spiritual apathy, False prophets, Watered down preaching
- Hypocrisy, Moral relativism, Discord, Division strife
- Intolerance and unbelief

While we cannot deny that our culture is drifting further and further from God there is one thing that remains true

When light stands next to darkness, light always wins!

Matthew 5:14–16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

- God’s Spirit empowers us to go from existing in the natural to experiencing the supernatural
- We have been promised light and we have been empowered to make a stand against darkness

John 12:46 (NKJV)

⁴⁶ I have come *as* a light into the world, that **whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.**

- Overcoming darkness sometimes requires willful accountability **Am I willing to take an inventory of my life?**
- Ask God to find the darkness in me and help me confront it?
- **Let Christ remove the darkness** so that my light can shine?

Hebrews 12:1 (NKJV)

12 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us

We must choose light if we are to be light

1 John 1:5 (NLT)

⁵ This is the message we heard from Jesus* and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all.

Light is a unique, transforming force

- What would we do without it?
- What will we do with the light God has given us?
- How do we live in the power of God's light to touch darkness, overcome it, and shine brightly in the world?
 - God fills every void
 - Wipes every tear
 - Breaks every chain
 - Washes every sin
 - Heals every heart
 - Delivers every captive

Acts 17:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

- I am...
 - Saved and not lost
 - Delivered not captive
 - Healed not sick
 - Whole not broken
 - Free not bound
 - Blessed not cursed
 - Accepted not rejected
 - Living and not dead!

If we are going to “Fully Shine” we need to draw close to God

- The lamp of God has yet to go out!

1 Samuel 3:1–3 (NLT)

Meanwhile, the boy Samuel served the LORD by assisting Eli. Now in those days’ messages from the LORD were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon.² One night Eli, who was almost blind by now, had gone to bed.³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle* near the Ark of God.

- The light is still shining
- Christ is still on the throne
- His word will not come back void!
- His Spirit is still moving
- His name makes demons tremble
- Sickness shrivel up
- Provokes the devil to flee!

Let us boldly declare!

- Darkness will not overcome light
- Darkness cannot penetrate light
- Light will always overtake darkness
- In Jesus name!

James 4:7–8 (NLT)

⁷ So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come close to God, and God will come close to you.

We emit what we absorb – You are what you tolerate!

“the ability of an object to absorb radiation is also related to its ability to emit radiation.” – Gustav Kirchhoff
– 19th century scientist – “radiative transfer law”

- Basically, we emit what we absorb, minus what we retain

As people of light we must work daily to improve our ability to reflect the light, love and life that come from God

The key to emitting the light of God is eliminating the focus on ourselves

John 3:30 (NLT)

³⁰ He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.

- We live in a “ME” society
- The first word we learn is “Mine”
- We really are our own god
- No wonder the first commandment is...
“you must not have any other God but me” – **Exodus 20:3**

We are more than mirrors!

We must not only reflect the light but absorb the light

“Too often people learn the language of faith, even the traditions, but they are not fully absorbing and synthesizing the power of light.” – Samuel Rodriguez

As followers of Christ we must learn to absorb all the light God has for us so we can

- Reflect some
- Retain some
- Emit some

Science has a term for something that only absorbs light without reflecting

- “perfect blackbody”

Luke 12:48 (NKJV)

⁴⁸ But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

- What am I doing with what I know?
- We are not meant to be pew warmers!
- Am I giving life or sucking life?
- We are born to be “rivers of life” and conduits of light and life
- We are born to absorb and then reflect God’s light!

Ephesians 1:4 (NLT)

⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

We are all familiar with a solar eclipse

- The moon partially or *fully* blocks (*occults*) the sun
- Eclipse meaning – “to obscure anything”

Have you fallen victim of a “spiritual eclipse”?

The dark forces of this world can eclipse the light of God from our lives

Sin can be the “dark body” that moves across the sky of our lives

- It can grow imperceptibly
- We can find ourselves in the shadows of death
- Far from God

John 3:19 (NLT)

¹⁹ And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil.

- We all have some measure of the light of God in us
- It shines to expose evil in our hearts and turn us to the light
- We can either respond to the light or remain in darkness
- Just as light produces more light darkness produces more darkness
- We emit the light of God when we are near Him
- We lose that ability when we are far from Him
- Darkness produces darkness

A “Black Hole” in space has such a strong gravitational pull it is said it can deform the space-time continuum

- “Spiritual Darkness” will similarly deform your life

It is important that we surround ourselves with people of light if we are going to increase our ability to “Shine”

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NLT)

³³ “bad company corrupts good character.”

- When darkness is falling on us chose to not absorb it
- Replace it with God’s restorative light
- Absorb the blessings and goodness that comes from light
- And then emit that light of life and grace to all around us

Am I a flashlight or a lamp?

Acts 13:47 (NKJV)

⁴⁷ For so the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, *That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.*’ ”

- Flashlights shine for a moment – until they run out of batteries
- They are activated or turned on by a touch
- A lamp produces constant light because its, “plugged in”
 - Its connected to the source
- Be a lamp
- Stay connected to Christ
- As long as the source produces power your lamp will shine!

Psalms 56:13 (NLT)

13 For you have rescued me from death; you have kept my feet from slipping. So now I can walk in your presence, O God, in your life-giving light.

Science tells us that “the amount of thermal radiation emitted by an object depends on its internal temperature, area, and characteristics.”

- How can we increase our spiritual, “surface temperature”?
- Our “area and characteristics”

1 Timothy 4:8 (NLT)

⁸ “Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come.”

- Even as physical exercise produces heat so spiritual exercise produces spiritual heat

When scientists create nuclear fusion they use completely impermeable materials to shut out all objects and ensure that fusion will occur and produce power

- Fusion – “the act or process of fusing or melting together”
- We must have a time each day to “shut out” the distractions of life and have “fusion” with the Spirit of God
- Just as daily exercise produces a healthy body
 - Produces serotonin and dopamine, improving our mental state
- Spiritual exercise produces a healthy spiritual body

Ephesians 6:11–12 (NLT)

¹¹ Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all **strategies** of the devil. ¹² For we* are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

In addition to daily spiritual activities we need to eliminate those things from our lives that bring our spiritual temperature down

Just as a bad diet of junk food and lack of exercise will promote poor health, allowing circumstances or others to limit what we believe or what we can do will keep us in a lifestyle that is less than God's best for us!

- Don't allow the words of others hamper what you know to be true
- Eliminate negative words we speak about ourselves
- Eliminate destructive relationships
- Eliminate habits that you know prevent you from your destiny
- Stop taking the easy way

All of these things affect your “internal temperature” hindering our ability to shine in the lives of others

Max Planck – “*3200 Kelvin*” – identified the optimal temperature for a light bulb to reach maximum efficiency

What is your maximal efficient temperature?

- Strive to increase your internal heat
- Eliminate cooling distractions
- Glow with the light of God

Ephesians 3:20 (NLT)

²⁰Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.