

Dig Deeper Devotional

Share THE Light: When Faith Becomes Visible



Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father,

You have given us Jesus Christ—the Light of the world, the Savior who entered the darkness of the world and offered what I could never obtain by anyone themselves. I confess that I sometimes guard this extraordinary news too carefully. Fear of rejection, uncertainty about what to say, concern over offending someone, or simple discomfort can persuade me to remain silent when an opportunity to speak of Christ stands directly before me. Give me wisdom without timidity, courage without arrogance, and compassion that recognizes the eternal significance of those around me. May the Light You have placed within me never be concealed through silence, compromise, or indifference. Teach me to share Christ naturally, faithfully, and lovingly so that others might see beyond me and discover Him.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Scripture Foundation

NIV – Matthew 5:14–16

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

KJV – Matthew 5:14–16

“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Teaching & Insight

We are remarkably eager to share what captures our attention. Discover a restaurant worth visiting, and before long someone else hears about it. Find an extraordinary sale, learn a shortcut that saves hours of work, watch a movie worth recommending, or hear a story too funny to keep to yourself, and sharing seems almost instinctive. Information possessing value naturally travels from one person to another. We

even share unpleasant information when we believe it might protect someone. If a road ahead is closed, we warn the driver behind us. If a product is dangerous, we tell those we care about. If someone is approaching circumstances we know may cause harm, love compels us to speak. This ordinary human instinct raises an extraordinary spiritual question: If we so readily share things that make life easier, safer, cheaper, or more enjoyable, why can sharing Jesus sometimes feel so difficult?

Christ's imagery in Matthew 5 is wonderfully uncomplicated. A lamp exists to illuminate. Once lit, no reasonable person deliberately places a covering over it. The lamp is elevated precisely so its light can reach beyond itself. Jesus then turns the illustration toward His followers: "You are the light of the world."

Notice what He does not say. He does not instruct His disciples to manufacture their own light. Neither does He suggest that Christian witness depends upon having an unusually charismatic personality, extensive theological education, or flawless communication skills. The believer shines because Christ has first brought light into the believer's life.

Jesus later declares in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world." Therefore, when His followers are called the light of the world, ours is a reflected light. We illuminate only because we belong to the One who is Light. That distinction should remove considerable pressure from evangelism. Our responsibility is not to save anyone. Our responsibility is to faithfully reveal the Savior.

Most Christians would never intentionally deny Christ. Yet light can be concealed in quieter ways. We hide it through silence when opportunities arise to explain why our faith matters, yet fear persuades us to say nothing. We hide it through compromise when our behavior becomes indistinguishable from values we know contradict Christ. We hide it through avoidance when another person's spiritual need becomes apparent, yet discomfort convinces us that someone else should respond. Perhaps most subtly, we hide the light when Christianity becomes so private that the people who know us best understand our hobbies, careers, politics, favorite teams, vacation plans, and opinions far better than they understand why Jesus Christ matters to us.

Faith is certainly personal and it was never intended to remain private. There is a profound difference between the two. Jesus calls His followers toward visible faith—not theatrical religion designed to attract admiration, but lives so thoroughly shaped by Him that His presence becomes difficult to overlook. This explains why Matthew 5 connects light with good works. Christlike conduct creates credibility for Christian testimony. Compassion, generosity, integrity, patience, forgiveness, and sacrificial love allow others to glimpse something different. Your light must illuminate Christ. A person may observe kindness and conclude merely that we are kind. They may witness generosity and assume we are generous. Christian witness becomes complete when our lives create opportunities for our words to explain the source of our hope. Peter describes this beautifully:

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." — 1 Peter 3:15, NIV

The Christian life therefore carries both demonstration and declaration.

We live the gospel and we speak the gospel.

Sharing Christ faithfully also means resisting the temptation to reduce the gospel to something merely inspirational. Jesus certainly offers hope, peace, purpose, forgiveness, reconciliation and eternal life. These promises possess their deepest meaning only when we understand the problem from which Christ rescues us and not only wears the declaration on a t-shirt.

Scripture declares that humanity's fundamental crisis is sin.

Romans 3:23 states:

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

The diagnosis includes every one of us. Christian evangelism should therefore never sound like morally superior people informing morally inferior people that they need improvement. We stand on precisely the same ground as everyone else: sinners entirely dependent upon grace. The gospel is one beggar telling another where bread may be found.

Sin separates humanity from God and no accumulation of good works, charitable giving, religious participation, moral effort, or personal sincerity can erase that debt. If humanity could rescue itself, the cross would have been unnecessary. The good news is that God did not leave us condemned.

Romans 6:23 places both realities within a single magnificent sentence:

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The gospel does not deny humanity's condition; it announces God's remedy. Christ bore sin upon the cross, died in the sinner's place, and rose victorious over death. Salvation is offered through Him—not as wages earned by religious achievement, but as grace received through faith. John 3:16 remains beloved precisely because it captures the astonishing heart behind this rescue.

Sharing both the seriousness of sin and the magnificence of grace is not unloving. When spoken with humility and compassion, it may be one of the greatest expressions of love we ever offer another person. Many believers hesitate to share their faith and for various reasons including lack of theological knowledge.

Certainly, we should grow in biblical knowledge. Scripture calls us to understand what we believe and why we believe it. Nevertheless, every Christian possesses one testimony no skeptic can erase: What Jesus has done in your life.

Your story need not be dramatic. Stories of truth where Christ rescued someone from addiction or profound brokenness is amazing. Perhaps your testimony contains no spectacular crisis at all; you were raised around faith, eventually recognized your own need for salvation, and placed your trust in Jesus. All of these stories of testimony reveal grace.

A useful testimony can often be understood through three simple movements:

Who was I before I understood my need for Christ?

How did I come to trust Jesus as Savior and Lord?

What difference is Christ making in my life now?

Your testimony is not merely the story of something Jesus did years ago. If sanctification is occurring, Christ is still writing the story. Those ongoing works become opportunities to speak naturally about faith. You do not need to force Jesus into every conversation. Live closely enough to Him that He naturally appears in your conversations.

One of the humbling realities of Christian witness is that we rarely know which moments God will use. A conversation that seems ordinary to you may become unforgettable to someone else. A simple invitation to church, a prayer during someone's crisis, a scripture shared at the right moment, an honest explanation of how Christ carried you through life moments or a gracious response when anger would have been understandable are all examples of tiny moments that could have a huge impact. And you may or may not see that impact.

You may plant a seed someone else waters years later. Another believer may reap where you once sowed. The outcome belongs to God. The question is whether you are willing to move the lamp from beneath the basket and place it where someone else can see.

Christ has entrusted His followers with extraordinary news. He is the light of the world. His light will never go out. He always has and forever will be shining and saving anyone who comes to His light.

DEED / ACTION

This week, intentionally prepare yourself to Share THE Light.

Step 1: Know Your Jesus Story

Write your testimony in three short sections:

- My life before recognizing my need for Christ
- How I came to trust Jesus
- How Jesus is changing my life today

Aim to communicate it naturally in three minutes or less.

Step 2: Identify Three People

Write down the names of three people who may not know Christ personally.

Pray for them every day this week.

Step 3: Watch for an Open Door

Do not manufacture a conversation. Instead, remain attentive when someone mentions fear, uncertainty, grief, purpose, guilt, faith, or hope.

That may be an invitation to share.

Step 4: Take One Courageous Step

Invite someone to church, offer to pray with them, share your testimony, or explain why Jesus matters to you.

The goal is not pressure.

The goal is faithfulness.

Pause & Reflect

- Who knows me well yet may know very little about my relationship with Jesus?
- Have fear, discomfort, or concern about people's opinions caused me to hide my faith?
- Does my conduct make the gospel more believable to those observing my life?
- Can I clearly explain both humanity's need for salvation and God's gracious answer through Christ?
- If someone asked today, "Why do you follow Jesus?" what would I say?

Consider one additional question carefully:

Who might encounter the Light of Christ because I chose not to remain silent?

Hebrew Insight

אור (*ôr*) — "Light, illumination, brightness"

Throughout the Old Testament, light frequently represents God's presence, truth, salvation, and life. Psalm 27:1 declares, "The LORD is my light and my salvation."

Biblical light does more than make things visible. It represents the presence of God invading darkness.

When believers share Christ, they are not promoting themselves. They are directing others toward the One from whom all true light comes.

Greek Insight

φῶς (*Phōs*) — “Light”

Used throughout the New Testament for both physical light and profound spiritual reality, *phōs* is the word Jesus uses when declaring, “I am the light of the world” and when telling His disciples, “You are the light of the world.”

Our light is derivative.

Christ is the source; believers are His witnesses.

The calling is therefore not to make ourselves brighter, but to remove whatever prevents His light from being seen through us.

Closing Prayer

Father,

Thank You for sending Jesus into the darkness and allowing His light to reach me. Thank You for the person, conversation, church, Scripture, circumstance, or witness You used to help me understand the gospel. Give me the courage to offer that same gift to someone else. Guard me from silence born of fear, compromise born of convenience, and indifference born of distraction. Let my conduct honor Christ, my words speak truth with grace, and my heart remember that every person I encounter possesses eternal value. Prepare me to tell my Jesus story clearly. Open doors that only You can open, then give me courage to walk through them. May people never stop at the light they see in me as it is a direct reflection and always lead them to Jesus.

In Jesus name, Amen.

Final Charge

You readily share when you believe it can improve someone's day. The gospel can transform someone's eternity.

Know your Jesus story. Live it visibly. Share it faithfully. Do not hide THE Light.

Sources

- The Holy Bible
- Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible
- Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon
- Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament
- **Mondays With Mark Video Series — LifeMark Ministries**