

# You Are The Light Of The World

- I. Matthew 5:14-16 - if you have been around church at all, you will find this passage very familiar.
- In verse 14, the Greek word translated “you” is “humeis,” which indicates a plural you.
  - In verse 16, the Greek word translated “your” is “humon” which denotes an personal you.
  - **The implication is that together we light the whole world, but individually you light your world.**
- A. Verse 16 states, “*let your light so shine that men may see.*”
1. Light is seen, it’s not heard. Light is demonstrated, not articulated.
  2. **Most training in evangelism is teaching people to answer questions that nobody is asking.**
    - a. It is important that you have the answers to the questions.
    - b. What is even more important is to live a life in such a way, that you stimulate the question.**
    - c. This is implied in verses like - 1 Peter 3:15, “*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.*”
    - d. The implication is that, if you live a life of hope in the midst of those who are hopeless, sooner or later they will ask you the reason for your hope.**
    - e. It has been said, people won’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care.
  4. **I have never been in a dark place, where there are dark lives, doing dark things and have let my love shine where they got mad.**
    - a. If you go in quoting scripture to them, they will get mad.
    - b. If you tell them that they are going to end up in hell if they don't change, they will get mad.**
    - c. But if you go in and allow your love to shine you will always get a positive response.
    - d. The only time they get mad is when your words precede your actions.**
    - e. It's like one evangelist says, "just love on people until they ask you why?"
    - f. They will see something that will cause them to want to hear something.**
- B. Verse 16, goes on to say that once they see (not hear) your good works, they will glorify your Father
1. **It is one thing for the church to come together and say “glory to God,”**
    - a. It is another thing for the church to go out into the world, letting your light shine.
    - b. What they see in the earthly (you) will cause them to glorify the heavenly (God).**
  2. Light was meant to shine in darkness.
    - a. In the summer of 1999, I took my family on vacation to Kentucky where we visited Mammoth**

- Darkness produces fear
- **Darkness has weight to it, it's heavy, and it presses in on you.**
- Since you can't see reality, it promotes a life of unreality.
- **Darkness will cause you to live your life out of your imagination.**
- All the creatures that live deep in the cave are blind
- **Light is needed an order to stimulate sight.**
- Extended darkness will produce permanent blindness.

**b. After about 45 seconds, the guide had one of the people turn on the light to his watch.**

- It surprised me on what an impact that insignificant light made.
- **It penetrated that darkness to the point that I could see the outline of the group.**
- Each person in this group automatically started moving towards the light.
- **It was a natural reaction upon seeing a light after having been in darkness.**

**c. These things are not only true of natural darkness, but are also true of spiritual darkness.**

- **People who walk in darkness are fearful, weighed down, live in unreality and become blind.**
- But, if they can see a light, they will instinctively move towards it.

**3. Earlier I mentioned the word translated "your" in verse 16 is singular and implies personal uniqueness, meaning that you have been given your own unique light.**

**a. In the natural, lights are made with purpose.**

**b. Natural lights are designed to penetrate darkness in various degrees.**

**c. In the natural, there are night lights, which are soft and gentle lights.**

**Some examples of this from scripture are stories.**

- The story of Martha and Mary - John 11.
- **Andrew, the brother of Peter - John 1:40-41.**
- The two men who held the rope, that held the basket, that held Paul - Acts 9:25.
- **Their lights were not bright lights, but they were important lights.**

**d. In the natural there are spot lights.**

**e. In the natural there are flood lights.**

**C. The Greek word for light in Matthew 5:14-16, is the word "phos." This is defined as "a fire or a light" or the best way to translate it is, "a light that is produced by a fire."**

**1. The fire in your heart, is the light of your life.**

**a. If you have no fire, you have no light.**

**b. It's only that light which will effectively penetrate some aspect of darkness.**

**2. Verse 15 teaches you that your light has enough brightness to light up the whole house.**

**a. Here it is called a "house," over in another place of scripture it is called a "dark land."**

**Isaiah 9:2** - *"The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land (because you went), The light will shine on them."*

b. The fire that God has started in your heart has enough light for all who are in your house.

**c. The question is, how is the fire started and where is my house or dark land?**

3. Genesis 1:2-4, which states, *"The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light."* (NKJV)

**a. From this, I want you to see a certain attribute of the Holy Spirit that is clearly seen.**

- It's not only an attribute that He had then, it is still an attribute that He has today.
- **Because like Jesus, the Holy Spirit is the "same yesterday, today and forever."**

b. What draws the Holy Spirit like a magnet is places or people that are void, or dark.

- **He is the ultimate light giver. If you have light, you want it to shine is where it is dark.**
- If you have some substance, where you want to go is where it is void.

**c. You can see this in the life of Christ.**

- Jesus would put in an appearance in the synagogue,
- **He spent most of His time in the dark places, around publicans, tax-collectors and sinners.**

d. The Holy Spirit hovered over the darkness, God spoke out of eternity and said, *"let there be*

- **As a result a light was established,**
- Darkness was penetrated
- **And the substance of creation was released.**

4. The Spirit still hovers or draws close to the darkness, but He now does it through you.

**a. If you don't have a light, it's because you have never let the Holy Spirit draw you**

- A lot of Christians are waiting to get the fire and then they will go.
- **Your dark land has within it the spark that will ignite your fire.**

b. Just like the rudder of a ship can't guide the ship unless it is in motion.

- **Since you don't know where your particular dark land is.**
- You may have to go and hover over a few dark lands before you hear *"let there be light."*
- **Prison Ministries and Missionaries**

II. Let me give some examples of what I am talking about from people in history.

A. These are those who hovered over some dark land, and heard God say *"let there be light."*

1. **William Booth used to accompany his wife to the slums of London's east end, where she would then teach a Bible class. As she was teaching the class, he would go for a walk where he noticed that every fifth building was a pub, where men would loiter all day drinking away their families livelihood. Appalled at these conditions, he opened the "Christian Mission" in 1865, serving the "down and outer" and out of that vision grew the Salvation Army. He didn't have a fire for the plight of the unborn, the sick or untouched nations. He had a fire for the dark land of the down and outer. As a result, thousands of men and women who had no hope, met the Lord of Hope.**
2. Dame Cicely Saunders is the founder of the modern hospice movement. A social worker and nurse, she was appalled at the way medical staff treated people who were about to die, in essence, ignoring them, as tokens of failure. This attitude offended her as a Christian. Since no one would listen to a nurse, she returned to medical school and became a doctor before founding a place where people could die with dignity and without pain. Now hospices exist in forty countries, including 2000 in the US alone. She didn't have a fire for the down and outers, unwed mothers, or the confused. She had a fire for the dark land of misery and death. As a result, thousands of people not only died with dignity, but also received a touch of divinity.
3. **Millard Fuller, a millionaire from Alabama though rich he was miserable. With his marriage on the rocks, he headed to Georgia, where he was saved in a church meeting. Before long, he gave away his personal fortune and founded an organization on the simple premise that every person on the planet deserves a decent place to live. Today "Habitat for Humanity" enlists 1000's of volunteers to build houses all over the world. He didn't have a fire for the dying, the hungry or the down and outer. He had a fire for the dark land of poverty. As a result, thousands of people not only got a new house, they got a new life.**

B. God gives you a light by setting a torch to your soul.

- **He gave Jeremiah a fire for hard hearts.**
- He gave Nehemiah a fire for a forgotten city.
- **He gave Abraham a fire for a land he had never seen.**
- He gave Moses a fire for deliverance of his kinsmen.
- **He gave David a fire for the state of a nation,**
- He gave Paul a fire for the lost state of the gentiles.

C. **God has given me a fire for people on drugs and alcohol, prisoners, and Christians.**

1. These are my houses, my dark lands.

- **My light shines in the dark land of addictions,**
- my light shines in the dark land of incarceration,
- **and my light shines in the dark land of lukewarmness within the Church.**

2. What is the fire that consumes you, that enlightens you, that burdens you?

- **Is it forgotten orphans? - Is it the plight of the unborn? - Is it untouched nations?**
- Is it the inner city? - Is it the sick? - Is it the confused?

3. If you don't have a fire, it's because you haven't allowed the Spirit to draw you close to some aspect of darkness.

**Isaiah 60:1-3 will be a testimony of your life - "Arise, shine; for your light has come, And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth, And deep darkness the peoples; But the Lord will rise upon you, And His glory will appear upon you. And nations will come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising."**