

**The Light of Life!**

John 8: 12-20

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In John 8:12 Jesus applies the following title to himself while debating with the religious leaders and stated: I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. In other words, Jesus sustains us and gives us life for all of our life.

**Do not hide the light:** Hiding the light does not make sense when people are in darkness and cannot see. In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5: 14-16), Jesus proclaimed to his disciples (and to us today), *"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."* We are not to hide the good news of God's love.

**Example of being a light:** There are times when world events and personal tragedies overwhelm us and plunge us into darkness and we may feel that the light has been extinguished, but the Bible states that whatever happens, God's light still shines, even today.

**Staying in the light:** I read about a pastor who bought one of those 'glow in the dark' figures for his daughter. The figurine stayed in the box until he returned home that night. When the pastor gave it to his daughter and told her what it was she was so excited. She tore open the box to reveal her gift. But it did not glow. She was sad. "What's wrong, Daddy?" she asked. The answer was revealed on the label attached to the figurine: If you want me to shine in the night, keep me in the light. The habit of worship, prayer and fellowship helps us to be charged up with the light of Christ.

**Reflecting the light through presence:** Jesus wants us to reflect him by "being there" for other people. Newsweek ran an article some time ago about street gangs. In it they told the story of a preacher who was trying to reach out to the slum dwellers for Christ. The preacher sought out a local drug dealer (to ask him why he was so successful in dragging people into his lifestyle)... and he gave the preacher a lesson in why God was losing to gangs in the battle for the souls of inner city kids. The dealer who was called 'Selvin' explained to us, 'I'm there when Johnny goes out for a loaf of bread for Mama. I'm there, you're not. I win, you lose. It's all about being there.'

**Distracted away from the light:** The East Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi did not see Christians glowing with the love of Christ. Gandhi loved the teaching of Jesus, but did not see the light of Christ in his followers. I think we can get so wrapped up in the lures and entitlements of our culture that the presence of Christ is dulled in our senses, diminishing our ability to be a reflective light and presence to others. In the passage we looked at in John 8, the spiritual leaders refused to accept him. They were in the presence of the light of the world, yet they did not open their eyes. Jesus came into the world as light to dispel the darkness. God wants you to have the reflective light of Jesus today. When you hear the voice of God calling to you today, listen to him and receive Jesus in your heart - The light of the world.

What are you doing to receive the light and reflect it to others?