



The German atheist philosopher Nietzsche once said that if he saw more redeemed people he might be more inclined to believe in their Redeemer.

Christians who do not have changed lives have a credibility gap. If I am trying to tell you how great my doctor is, but I am dying under his care, you might question his skill. If I try to tell you how great my auto mechanic is, but my car is belching black smoke out the exhaust,

you will probably be reluctant to entrust your own vehicle to him. What good does it do to tell people how great our Savior is if they cannot see that we ourselves have been saved from sin? Let your light shine. We have that light shining through our lives if our actions reflect the nature of Christ—His love, compassion, and forgiveness. His light shines through our attitudes, words, and deeds. When people see that our lives have been changed so that we have Jesus' values and see the power of God at work in us, they will agree that we do have a great Savior. When they see redeemed people, they are more inclined to believe that we have a Redeemer. The Christlike life is the platform on which individual testimony becomes convincing.

"Walk in the Light"



We Christians are surrounded by people who love darkness rather than the light. Sure, we are Christians and have the light of life in us, but it is still possible to be affected by those around us who are walking in darkness. We can also be affected by dark things we take in from

the news or certain types of entertainment like movies, music, and books. We may have had a good start in our Christian life, yet gradually be lulled to sleep and begin to fall into a walk that is just like that of the people around us. We need to consider 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6: "But you, brothers, are not in darkness that the day should overtake you like a thief; For you are all sons of Light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. So then let us not sleep, as the rest do, but let us watch and be sober." To be a Christian today is not easy. Those who hate the light and love darkness encompass us. We live in a world full of darkness, but we've been called out of darkness into His marvelous Light. As the disciples of the Lord, as His continuation on the earth today, we have a responsibility to be the Light of the world just as He was. In Matthew 5:14-16, our Lord charged us in this way: "You are the Light of the world. It is impossible for a city situated upon a mountain to be hidden. Nor do men light a lamp and place it under the bushel, but on the lampstand; and it shines to all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father Who is in the heavens."



In Philippians 2:15, the apostle Paul says, "Believers, you are to shine as Light in the world". The Greek word used here is very similar to the word for the beacon that a lighthouse emits. That beacon is bright and unmistakable in its purpose. It warns of danger. It directs to safe harbor. It provides hope for those who have lost hope. Everyday we are surrounded by people groping around in the darkness, separated

from the God who loves them. God uses His children, like beacons from a lighthouse, to show the way to Him. "The Light Is Not Our Own"



Darkness is the absence of light. Trying to go after it directly is like chasing your shadow. You can't bag it up and throw it away. Only light is powerful enough to make the darkness disappear. During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus made it clear that we are the Light of the world. We are called to shine. But the Light we share is not our own. From the very beginning of

creation, God has been the source of light both spiritually and literally. Genesis 1:2-3 says, "Darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light". Imagine a world full of darkness. Then with four small words, light blazes forth. Every living thing in our world relies on light for its existence — plants, animals and people. The God Who brought light to the world also brings it to our lives. As 2 Corinthians 4:6 says, "For God, Who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made His Light shine in our hearts"

"We Must Plug Into The Source"



The best part of all is that we don't have to be like the light bulb that said, "I have to find a way to shine!" The light bulb went to a self-help meeting to learn about its inner capacity for light. It read books about how to get brighter. Each morning the light bulb would get up and

recite positive affirmations. "I am a light bulb. I believe in myself. I will shine!" But nothing happened. Eventually the light bulb became weary and discouraged. It began to doubt who it was and what it could do. It almost burned out completely. Fortunately, one day the light bulb was carefully placed in a fixture. Light burst forth and filled the room. The light bulb finally understood. The key was not to try harder but to plug into the source.

"Understanding the Power Source"



It is Living Light

Scripture: John 1:1-5 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The

light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Consider verse 4: "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." This means that the light that shines in the darkness is the Light of life (John 8:12). The life of the Son is the Light of the world. **The first reason the light will triumph over the darkness is that it is life.** It is Living Light. What does that mean?

First: The Light Of Life Has Energy And Power Because The Life Of The Son Has Energy And Power.

Second: The Light Of Life Has Purpose And Motion. It Is Not Static Like A Lamppost Or A Lighthouse On The Shore. It Plans And Moves. It Shines Now Here, Now There. It Is Alive With The Life Of The Son.

Third: The Light Of Life Grows And Expands. That Is The Way The Life Of The Son Of God Is. His Life Is A Fountain Of Life (Psalm 36:9). Once The Rays Start Coming Out Of This Light, They Extend Farther And Farther And Farther.

Fourth: The Light Of Life Begets Offspring. John 12:36, "Believe In The Light, That You May Become Sons Of The Light."

This Light is Living—it has energy and purposefulness and growth and reproduction. It is not a static thing, like a stoplight that might be ignored. The light that shines in the world today is the very life of the Son of God.

"The Light Cannot Be Overcome By The Darkness"

"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God."

- **The Light Is Alive**—It's the Light of Life
- **Through This Life**—This Living Word—all things were made; and this Living Word is God.



We live in a world of darkness, a place of unfathomable evil and violence, and it's getting worse not better! Christ has overcome the world of darkness, so be of good cheer. "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I

have overcome the world." (John 16:33). "Believe in the Light that you may become sons of the Light." (John 12:36). Trying to shine on our own can be exhausting. Instead, we're simply called to be closely connected to God and remain in Him. When we do, His light pours forth through us in powerful, brilliant ways that change the world.

"It Is An Act Of His Creative Power"

The Lord does not say that we used to be in the darkness, whereas now we are in the light, although this is true. (Colossians 1:13) "He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love." (John 8:12) "Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I Am the Light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the Light of Life." (1 Peter 2:9) "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;" (1 John 1:5-7) "This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is Light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the Light as He is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." (1 John 2:9) "He who says he is in the Light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now." Rather, he says that we used to be darkness, but now we are Light in the Lord. Being children of light implies that this profound change comes from God's power in the new birth. **It is an act of His creative power. Just as He at the first created light out of the darkness, so now He has changed us from being darkness itself into being light in the Lord.** Most of us have had the experience of visiting a cave where the guide turned off all of the lights for a few seconds (which always seem like minutes!). You can't even see your hand in front of your face. For a few awful seconds, you realize what it would be like to be totally blind. **The Lord says that we formerly were darkness. We were spiritually blind. We not only didn't see God's glory and truth, we didn't have the ability or desire to see such things. We didn't sense our need for the Savior, because we thought we were good enough to go to heaven and we didn't understand the absolute holiness and justice of God. So we lived entirely for ourselves and our own pleasure, avoiding the thought of death and eternity.**

"God Has Made Us The Light"



But, when God saved us, He opened the eyes of our understanding so that we saw "The Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6). We saw our true condition as guilty sinners, but we also saw the all sufficiency of Jesus and His death on the cross to cover all our

sins. We had a new understanding of God's Word and a new desire to know God and His truth more and more. We now hate the sin that we formerly lived in and we long to be like our Savior, holy in all our ways. We now walk in the Light, rather than in darkness, because God has made us Light in the Lord.