

SPIRITUAL LIFE MESSAGE

Song - "This Little Light of Mine"

Prayer: *(As the Spirit Leads)*

Scripture: Matthew 5:14-16

Meditation "Is Your Light Shining?"

Are we hiding our identity? Do people know we are individuals who have been chosen by God to help further His kingdom here on earth? When people observe our actions, do they see deeds that glorify God?

When people do or say things that upset us, how do we respond? How do we react when unforeseen tragedy walks through our front door and takes up residence? What about life's successes, to whom do we give credit and thanks? Generally, when we are upset, our initial reaction is defensive, with a worldly retort. Often times, our reaction to tragedy is to handle the issue with help from friends and family, leaving God out or calling on Him as a last resort. Likewise, we acknowledge individuals, who assisted in our accomplishments, with no praise given to God.

When we respond to life's experiences in the manners cited above, we are hiding our identity. While we are not perfect, we are Christians, who should be striving to be more like Christ each day. A worldly response to an unpleasant experience, handling tragedy on our own and not acknowledging God's favor in our successes are not words, thoughts and deeds that glorify God. When we behave in this manner, we are not letting our lights shine.

On January 1st, we began another new year. With this new year, each of us received a renewed opportunity to let our light so shine that others will come to know about the goodness of God. Many of us made New Year's resolutions that ranged from losing 50 pounds by Valentines' Day to paying off all debt by the end of the year. While the decision to improve our individual circumstances is good, would you agree that a decision to let our lights shine throughout the new year, no matter what our life experiences may be, is an even better New Year resolution?

Closing Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, help us to remember your presence, and to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we proceed through our daily lives. Let all that we do glorify you, so that others will be encouraged to accept Christ as their savior and serve in your kingdom. Amen



Polishing Your Communication Power

Match the word in the left column with the definition in the right column.

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| 1. Antisemitism | 2. Pragmatic |
| 3. Catfishing | 4. Liturgical |

___ the process of luring someone into a relationship by means of a fictional online persona:

___ dealing with things sensibly and realistically in a way that is based on practical rather than theoretical considerations

___ Hostility, prejudice, or discrimination against Jews

___ public ritual of worship