



HOUR OF POWER

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart

PSALM 134:2

who minister by night in the house
of the LORD.

2 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary
and praise the LORD.

3 May the LORD, the Maker of heaven
and earth
bless you from
this time forth
and forevermore.

**BRIGHTEN YOUR LIGHT
AS A CHRISTIAN!**

1 Praise the LORD.

Praise the name of the LORD;

Praise him, O ye servants of the
LORD.

2 you who minister
in the house of the LORD.



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ON BRIGHTENING YOUR LIGHT AS A CHRISTIAN — MATTHEW 5:14–16

If we live out the Beatitudes, we will be the salt of the earth, as we discussed in the last lesson. However, not only will we be the salt of the earth but what else will we be, according to Jesus in Matthew 5:14a?

For this to be a reality in our lives, we must do three things ...
Comprehend what light is (5:14a)

The word translated light (phōs, fōce) means to shine or make manifest. In a physical sense, light enables us to see form and color. In the spiritual sense, light enables us to see spiritual truth. That's why Jesus makes what statement in John 9:5?

Jesus is no longer with us physically; that's why He says in the Sermon on the Mount, "you are the light of the world." The you is emphatic, which means "You are the ONLY light of the world." In Jesus' absence, we exclusively reflect His light.

The sun is the source of physical light for our world. However, at night when our side of the earth rotates away from the sun, the moon reflects the light of the sun and becomes the physical light for our side of the earth. In the same way, we are to reflect the spiritual light of Jesus in His absence. We don't shine our own light; we reflect the light of Jesus. How does Ephesians 5:8 express this fact?

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We are not to shine our own lights, trying to show how religious or good we are. Instead, we are to let the light of Jesus shine through us, showing others what Jesus is really like. When that happens, the light within us will produce only what is good and right and true (Eph. 5:9). The word translated good, or “goodness,” (agathōsynē, ag-uh-tho-sue'-nay) refers to benevolence and generosity. It means we unselfishly do things to benefit others. The word right, or “righteousness,” refers to moral integrity. True refers to the absence of lies, deceit, and falsehood in our lives. If we let our lights shine, we will reflect only what is good and right and true, which is the light of Christ.

To brighten your light, comprehend what light is and ...



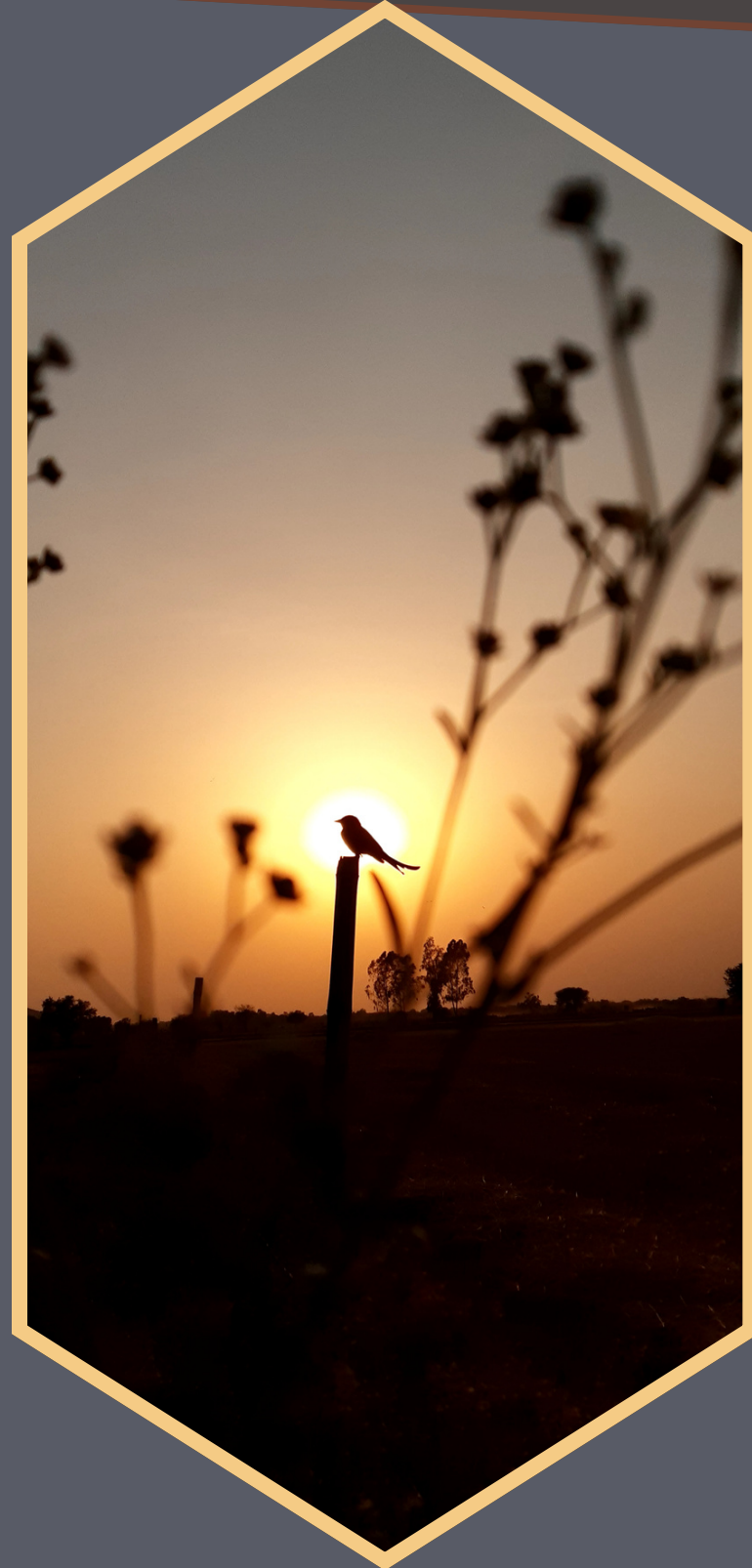
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Consider the consequences of hiding your light (5:14b–15)

Light dispels darkness; therefore, light is only needed where there is darkness. Light in darkness is always conspicuous, as Jesus points out by saying, “A city set on a hill cannot be hidden” (5:14b). In the daytime, a city on a hill is visible for all to see. At night, the many lights in the windows make it stand out even more. The more spiritual darkness there is where we work or go to school, the more visible our light will be. Jesus did not

We need to let our lights shine because of the spiritual darkness that dominates and permeates our culture. It’s on TV, on the internet, in advertising; it’s everywhere. The light of Christ has come into our world (Jn 3:19a). But the horror is found in Jesus’ words in John 3:19b. Write them below:

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In a culture that loves darkness, we must be the light of the world. If we are, we can't go along with the darkness crowd. We won't hide our convictions about marriage or sexual immorality. We won't try to cover up the fact we believe Jesus is the only way to heaven (Jn 14:6). When tempted to hide our lights, we need to remember what Jesus said about anyone who is ashamed of Him or His words. What did our Lord say in Luke 9:26?

If you are ever tempted to hide your light, ask yourself if you want Jesus to be ashamed of you for all eternity. Furthermore, remember some people may die in spiritual darkness because you are the only light they will ever see.

To brighten your light, comprehend what light is, consider the consequences of hiding your light, and ...

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Concentrate on brightening your light (5:16)

Jesus says we are to let our lights “shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (5:16). The word translated give glory, or “glorify,” means to express a good opinion or praise.

There should be no doubt about the Source of our good works. Our lights don't shine to draw attention to how good and spiritual we are, but to cause others to have a good opinion of our heavenly Father. How can we do good works that will brighten our lights and cause people to give glory to our heavenly Father? There are at least four ways ...

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1. Acquire a permanent positive attitude. We live in a very negative, critical world that is always looking for something bad in everybody and everything. One way to brighten our lights is to be positive in a very negative world. To do that, what does Philippians 4:8 tell us to think about?

If we think about these eight things, we will acquire a permanent positive attitude.

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2. Apply yourself at work or school. Few things can dim our lights as Christians like shoddy work or performance. Christians are called to competence and to set the standard. For our lights to shine, we must have reputations of being dependable, efficient, honest, and doing high quality work. This is because of what command in 1 Corinthians 10:31b?

God has given all of us incredible gifts and talents, and we should use them to the best of our abilities for His glory. To brighten our lights, we don't have to be the best, but we should always do our best for God's glory.



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3. Avoid blinding people with your light. People who try to shine their own lights rather than reflect the light of Jesus are obnoxious, sanctimonious, and rude. Don't shine your light in people's faces and offend them by acting "holier-than-thou." Jesus said, "let your light shine before others," not at them (emphasis mine). People who blind others with their own lights do so because they are trying to act like they are better than others. However, what does Philippians 2:3 command?

This means we should not be rude and condescending to anyone. When we are lights, we will be witnesses, not prosecuting attorneys.

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. Alleviate worry about rejection. Remember, we are only reflections of the original Light, Jesus Christ, and He was rejected, too. When we reflect Jesus, we will not be popular with everyone.

One lie many people believe is a person must have everyone's acceptance and approval to be happy.

Such people are social chameleons, who often change their "color" to fit in with whatever group in which they find themselves. However, such people eventually realize they don't know who they really are. There is an old saying: "One who wears many faces does not know who he really is."

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A sure path to unhappiness is thinking everyone must like and approve of you. One benefit of a “journey into blessed living” is knowing you only need the approval of one person, God the Father. How does 2 Timothy 2:15 say you can present yourself to God as a worker that doesn’t need to be ashamed and receive His approval?

Though originally written to Timothy, a young pastor, this verse applies to us all. To receive God’s approval, we must correctly interpret and apply the Word of God to our lives. Only when we get light from God’s Word can we be the light of the world by reflecting the light of Jesus. How does Psalm 119:105 express this fact?



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BRIGHTENING YOUR LIGHT REQUIRES
THAT YOU COMPREHEND WHAT LIGHT
IS, CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES OF
HIDING YOUR LIGHT, AND
CONCENTRATE ON BRIGHTENING
YOUR LIGHT.



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