DR. CURT DODD

JOHN 1:1-18



#### **Part 4: The Light - Punching Holes In The Darkness**

John 1:1-5

INTRODUCTION	NOTES
In this week's message, we are going to focus on the fifth verse of the first chapter of John, which says, "The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it." Your life has the power to punch holes in the darkness, because the Bible tells us very clearly that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. In order for our lives to be light that punches through the darkness, several things need to happen. So we are going to look at today's key passage for guidance, direction, and encouragement for how the Lord wants us to live.	
KEY POINTS	
1. Line Up With The Light	
If we're going to punch holes in the darkness, the first thing we need to do is line our lives up with the light instead of trying to line up with the world. Jesus is the only example with which we should be aligning our lives. Unfortunately, many Christians end up missing the mark here. They change their theology, their beliefs about God, and their faith practices so that the world does not feel condemned. But we need to understand that you and I will never punch holes in the darkness until we decide if we're going to stand with the light or if we're going to live like the world. Having one foot in either place, thinking we can balance the two, is impossible.	
You need to understand that God wants you to choose to be different, to choose to stand for what is right, even if it would cost you. You and I don't need the world's applause, so we need to stop trying to dance to their music. We must choose to stand with Christ and follow His example, even when it costs us and even when it isn't easy.	
2. Ignite Your Match Daily	
<ul> <li>If you're wanting to make a difference with your life, then you need to ignite your match daily. Here are three simple things you can do in order to ignite your match and make an impact in the world: <ul> <li>Stay In The Word. If you want to know the will of God, you need to stay in the Word of God. You need to be reading Scripture every single day. God's Word is the only thing that's going to feed you the way you need to be fed spiritually.</li> <li>Stay In Prayer. There is no magical formula for prayer, however there are different ingredients to prayer. God just wants you to be in a relationship with Him where you talk to Him and where you listen to Him. Prayer should be a means of interchange where you wait upon the Lord in the midst of pursuing Him. Sometimes as you wait in prayer, the words don't come or there is an overwhelming amount of emotion. You might not be able to say the words you want to say, but even then, the Lord wants you to draw close to Him, and He wants to be close to you.</li> </ul></li></ul>	

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- <b>Stay In Fellowship.</b> You and I need people in our lives who will pray for us. We need men and women who are engaged with us. We need fellowship with other believers. If we are going to keep our match lit daily, we need to be involved in connectivity with people who can do life with us.	NOTES
3. Go To Places Of Darkness	
Another thing we must remember as we try to be a light is that if we want to punch holes in the darkness, we need to go to places of darkness. We have a tendency as Christians to pull away from darkness. But Jesus has sent us into the world, not to be like the world, but to shine in the midst of darkness with the power of the Holy Spirit. At the end of the day, darkness needs light. But if the light doesn't go into the darkness, nothing is going to change.	
4. Hide Not Your Light	
Jesus says that you are the light of the world. But many of us try to hide that. We don't want anybody to know that we are Christians. We're too fearful of disappointing other people, and we're more concerned about being accepted rather than risking rejection from family or friends. Therefore, we stay silent in discussions where we should be standing for what is right.	
5. Take Your Responsibility Seriously	
As a follower of Christ, you have been sent. You have been commissioned. God has called you to spread His Word and point other people to Him, so you need to take that responsibility seriously. Remember what 2 Corinthians 5:20 says, "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."	
You are a follower of Jesus who is making a difference whether you know it or not. You may not think your life counts because you're not upfront publicly to teach or to preach, or you're behind the scenes and you don't feel like you have a platform. But let me just tell you, your life makes a difference more than you could ever imagine. I don't know how long the Lord will allow you to live on this planet, but as long as you are here, you can punch holes in the darkness through the power of the Holy Spirit that lives within you. Let's not take that responsibility lightly.	

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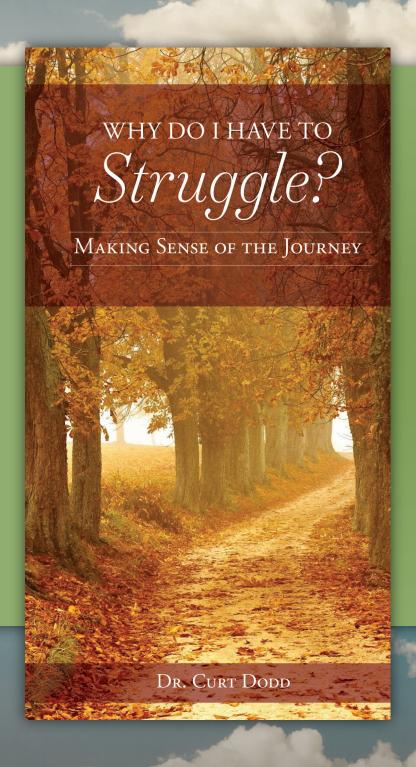
#### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Is	your	life	lined	up	compl	etely	with	the	Lord,	or	are	you	keeping	one	foot	in	your
faitl	n and t	he o	ther f	oot	in the	worl	d?										

2.	When	was the	e last t	ime you	made an	effort to	go into	the da	rkness	to sp	read	light?	Is
th	ere so	mething	you c	could do	this week	to inten	tionally	punch	holes	in th	e darl	kness	of
th	is wor	ld?						_					

3. Has there been a time in your life when you hid your light instead of standing up for what you knew was right? If you could go back to that moment, what would you do differently?

# WE ALL HAVE STRUGGLES



God is with us when we are struggling the most.

Visit **HigherAim.org** to order your free copy of Dr. Dodd's most recent book, Why Do I Have To Struggle? Making Sense of the Journey.

