THE WORD DR. CURT DODD

JOHN 1:1-18



THE WORD

Part 9: When The Light Comes On (Part 2)

John 1:1-9

INTRODUCTION

Last week we talked about the means and the circumstances God uses to turn the light on within us. This week we're going to continue that conversation as we talk about how to use that light to love and minister to the people around us. Our entire purpose in life is to become more like Christ, and as we do that, we should be a shining light so that others are drawn to the Lord. So we're going to learn how to do just that in this week's message.

KEY POINTS

1. Spreading The Light

Inspire them with your life. Allow the testimony of your life to be a witness that Jesus can use to encourage other people that they still have hope. Because of the way you live each day, people can see that just like God gave you hope and changed your life, He can do the same for them. Don't be afraid to shine your light for Jesus so you can inspire others.

Inform them (speak to them). If you have a friend or family member who is headed in the wrong direction and has embraced darkness, don't just agree with them because you're afraid to hurt their feelings. Be confident in speaking truth to them and be sure to speak the truth in love. Many of us, we get angry with people who sin and try to use the Bible as a weapon rather than a tool we can use to teach and encourage. So instead of doing that, let's lovingly point each other towards the truth.

Involve the Lord in your conversation. Every time you go to speak, ask God how you are to speak. At the same time, ask Him to keep you quite when you're not to speak. There is a right time and a right place for everything. If you'll listen to the tug of the Holy Spirit of God, you will know in your soul when it's the right time and the right circumstance for you say something. But you have to involve God in the conversation because it's not about you. It's about Him and Him using you in the life of the person you're speaking to.

Intercede for your family members (pray for them). Intercession is the greatest power that believers rarely tap into. That's where there is an ongoing sense of praying for God to move in the lives of the people around us. As long as they are breathing, there is hope. So don't give up on your family. Don't give up on your friends, on your culture, on our country. The only hope any of us has is Jesus, so let's continue to pray for that hope to be experienced by everyone. NOTES

THE WORD

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2. The Power Of The Light

We are a new creation. Don't ever get over the fact that as a believer, you are a new creation in Christ Jesus. Don't forget where you came from. Don't forget how it used to be, to be without Christ, to be without hope. Don't ever lose touch with how it used to be before you met Jesus, because now you are a new creation.

We have a critical ministry. The Scripture makes it very clear that we have a critical ministry as His followers. We have been given a ministry of reconciliation. God has invited us to be partners with Him in bringing people to faith in Jesus, to making a difference rather than just making a living. The Lord wants our lives to lineup with this critical ministry. This call wasn't just for the apostles. This is not just for pastors. It's for all of God's people.

We have a clear message. There is not one of us on this planet that doesn't need to be reconciled to God. We all need to get right with Him. This happens when we ask God to give us the freedom to do what He would allow you to do and put a check in your Spirit about what you shouldn't do. If you seek out this reconciliation with God, you'll have peace on the inside.

We have a passionate call. When you communicate with people who need Jesus as Lord of their life, and people who need to come out of the darkness, they need to know that you're passionate about them, that you care about them. They need to know you care about your relationship with the Lord. So never lose the passion you have around your faith. Never lose hope to the point where you lose the spark that ignites your faith in Jesus. If you need to, Ask God to restore the joy of your salvation, and He will do it.

We have a great position. When Jesus died on the cross, He took all of our sins on Him, and then He took all of His righteousness and placed it on us. Now God doesn't see us as unworthy sinners. Instead, He sees us as righteous. It doesn't make a difference how you or anybody else sees you. It's all about how God sees you. If you have given your life to Christ, allow His life and His righteousness flow through your life.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Is it easy for you to speak the truth in love to other people, or is calling someone out in a loving way something you struggle with?

2. Are you praying for your friends and family members who don't know the Lord? If not, who could you be praying for?

3. If someone were to look at how you live out your faith, could they easily see the passion you have for your faith and relationship with Jesus?

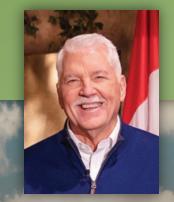
WE ALL HAVE STRUGGLES

why do i have to Struggle?

Making Sense of the Journey

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.*



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