

5-Day Devotional: You Are the Light of the World

AM Message by Bro. Mike Bentley – August 16, 2026

Theme: Shining as Lights in a Dark World

Day 1: You Are the Light Reading: Matthew 5:14-16

Devotional: Jesus does not say "try to become" the light of the world. He declares that you already are. This is both a gift and a calling. Before you can shine outward, you must recognize what God has placed within you. Paul reminds the Ephesians that they were once darkness but are now light in the Lord. The transformation is complete. The responsibility that follows is to live in a manner consistent with what you have become. Today, reflect on whether your daily conduct reflects the identity God has given you. You are not darkness. Walk accordingly.

Day 2: Good Works That Point to God Reading: Titus 3:4-8

Devotional: The sermon drew a clear distinction between good works done for personal recognition and good works done to glorify God. Paul instructs that those who believe in God should be careful to maintain good works because they are profitable to others. Doing good is not merely a moral exercise. It is an act of witness. When a neighbor sees you serve sacrificially, when a coworker sees you respond to hardship with grace, when a stranger receives your generosity without explanation, they catch a glimpse of the God you serve. Ask yourself today what specific act of goodness you can offer that points someone toward the Father.

Day 3: Removing the Basket Reading: 1 John 2:15-17

Devotional: The sermon identified several baskets that smother our light, including hypocrisy, fear, worldliness, rudeness, self-righteousness, and a lack of joy. John warns that love of the world and love of the Father cannot occupy the same heart. Worldliness is one of the most effective baskets because it dims the light gradually, almost without notice. The things of this world are passing away, but the one who does the will of God remains. Take an honest inventory today. Is there an attachment, a habit, or a compromise that is quietly covering the light God placed in you? Name it. Address it.

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Day 4: Faith Over Fear Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-16

Devotional: Peter's instruction to always be ready to give an account for the hope within you assumes that others have noticed something different about you. That difference is your light. But fear silences the witness before it begins. The sermon recalled how Peter, in Jesus' darkest hour, allowed fear of a servant girl's words to extinguish his boldness. Fear is the opposite of faith, and every disciple faces it. The antidote is not confidence in yourself but confidence in the One who called you. When you are prepared in your heart, and when you live honorably, your readiness to speak becomes a natural overflow of how you live.

Day 5: Called Out of Darkness Reading: 1 Peter 2:9-12

Devotional: Peter describes God's people as a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, called out of darkness and into his marvelous light. This is not a description of what you must earn. It is a declaration of what God has done. The purpose of this calling, however, is outward. You were brought into the light so that you might proclaim his praises and live honorably before those who are still in the dark. Your conduct among unbelievers carries weight. Your good works, observed over time, can move a skeptic toward glorifying God. Live today as someone who takes seriously the privilege of being a light-bearer in a world that desperately needs one.