

5-Day Devotional: Turning On Your Light

Day 1: Be Still and Listen

Scripture: Psalm 46:10 - "Be still, and know that I am God."

Samuel was simply lying down when God spoke to him. He wasn't striving or performing—just available. How often do we fill every moment with noise, activity, and distraction? We carry this incredible tool—the gospel, our testimony, God's presence—but never turn it on because we're too busy to listen.

Today, challenge yourself to turn everything off. Set a timer for five minutes. Sit in silence. Let your mind quiet. Don't expect to hear an audible voice, but practice the discipline of availability. God often speaks to those who are already faithfully serving where He has placed them, but first we must be still enough to hear.

Prayer: Lord, I am listening. Quiet my racing thoughts and help me create space to hear Your voice. Teach me the discipline of stillness.

Day 2: The Whole Truth

Scripture: Psalm 119:160 - "The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever."

Samuel expected encouragement when God spoke. Instead, he received a difficult message about judgment. Sometimes we open God's Word hoping for blessing and comfort, but encounter conviction instead. We want the verses about love and grace, but skip over holiness and repentance.

Spiritual maturity is revealed by our willingness to receive *all* of God's Word—not just the parts we find comfortable. The Bible tells us we're all sinners in need of a Savior. That's hard truth, but it's the truth that leads to freedom.

Reflection: Is there a part of Scripture you've been avoiding? A truth that "tingles your ears" instead of tickling them? Ask God to help you accept His whole counsel today.

Prayer: Lord, I accept what You say. Even when Your truth is uncomfortable, help me receive it with humility and obedience.

Day 3: Preach the Gospel—Use Words

Scripture: Acts 20:27 - "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God."

There's a popular saying: "Preach the gospel daily; use words if necessary." It sounds humble and safe. We can serve people, love our neighbors, and never risk rejection by actually *saying* the name of Jesus.

But Samuel had to speak the message God gave him. Our service and love are vital, but they're incomplete without words. People need to hear that God loves them, that Jesus died for them, that there's hope and peace available. You can't argue with what God has done in your own life—that's your simplest, most powerful testimony.

Challenge: Think of one person God has brought to mind. This week, tell them one thing God has done in your life. Just turn on your light and let it shine.

Prayer: Lord, I will share what You have said. Give me courage to speak truth in love to someone who needs to hear it.

Day 4: Overcoming Fear

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:7 - "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

Samuel was afraid to tell Eli the truth. It's harder to share difficult truth with people we know—especially when we're aware they're walking in sin or away from God. We fear rejection, damaged relationships, being labeled as judgmental.

But here's the truth: it's not your responsibility what someone does with the message. Your responsibility is simply to share. It's the Holy Spirit's job to convict and convert. Some will receive it gratefully; others will reject it. But God blesses those who faithfully proclaim His truth, even when it's difficult or unpopular.

The more you practice sharing Jesus, the easier it becomes. Fear diminishes with obedience.

Reflection: What conversation have you been avoiding because of fear? What stand has God been calling you to take?

Prayer: Lord, replace my fear with boldness. Help me trust that You go before me in every conversation.

Day 5: Let Your Words Bear Fruit

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:19 - "And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground."

God honored Samuel's obedience. Because Samuel was ready to listen, willing to receive hard truth, and faithful to speak what God told him, the Lord was with him. His words bore fruit. None fell to the ground.

You have a flashlight—the good news of Jesus, your testimony, the truth of Scripture. But it only makes a difference when you turn it on. When you finally speak up, share your story, tell someone God loves them—you activate the light.

God wants to use you right where you are. Your mission field might be your workplace, your neighborhood, your family. Be ready, receive His truth, and share it boldly.

Prayer: Lord, use me today. Make my life and my words fruitful for Your kingdom. Help me shine Your light wherever You've placed me.

Blog: Is Your Flashlight On?

We all carry something powerful—a testimony, a truth, a light that could guide someone out of darkness. But here's the uncomfortable question: **Are we actually turning it on?**

The Boy Who Listened

In 1 Samuel 3, we meet young Samuel serving in the temple under Eli the priest. It was a spiritually dark time—the Bible says "the word of the Lord was rare in those days." Even Eli, the priest himself, had become spiritually flatlined, so busy doing good religious work that he forgot to do God's work.

But Samuel was different. When God called his name in the night, Samuel's immediate response was availability: "Here I am." He was ready to listen, eager to learn, positioned to receive whatever God wanted to say.

Even when the message was difficult—a word of judgment against his beloved teacher Eli—Samuel accepted it. And even though he was afraid, Samuel spoke it. He didn't hide the truth or soften the blow. He faithfully delivered God's message.

The result? "Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground" (1 Samuel 3:19).

Three Lessons from Samuel's Story

1. Readiness: Be Available to God

Samuel wasn't doing anything spectacular when God spoke. He was simply lying down, available. How often do we fill every moment with noise and distraction? We rush from task to task, scroll from post to post, never creating space to hear God's voice.

Psalms 46:10 commands us: "Be still, and know that I am God."

This week, try this: Turn everything off. Sit in silence for five minutes. Let your mind settle. Practice availability. God often speaks to those who are already faithfully serving where He has placed them—but first, we must be still enough to listen.

2. Reception: Accept God's Message

Sometimes we open the Bible hoping for encouragement, but encounter conviction instead. We want verses about God's love and blessings, but skip over passages about holiness and repentance.

Samuel expected good news but received a harsh word about judgment. Yet he accepted it.

Spiritual maturity is revealed by our willingness to receive *all* of God's Word, not just the parts we find comfortable. Yes, God is love. But He's also holy, just, and truthful. The whole counsel of God includes both grace and accountability, blessing and correction.

Are you living with a stiff-arm toward certain biblical truths? God's Word may sting, but it leads to life.

3. Responsibility: Announce God's Truth

Here's where many of us falter. We receive truth, we experience transformation, but we never actually share it. We keep our flashlight in the drawer.

There's a popular saying: "Preach the gospel daily; use words if necessary." It sounds humble, but it's incomplete. Yes, our actions matter—serve generously, love sacrificially. But people also need to *hear* the name of Jesus. They need to know there's hope, forgiveness, and peace available.

You can't argue with what God has done in your own life. That's your most powerful testimony. You may not know every Bible verse or theological argument, but you can say, "This is what God did for me. This is how Jesus changed my life."

Samuel was afraid to speak hard truth to Eli. We're often afraid too—of rejection, of being labeled judgmental, of damaging relationships. But it's not our responsibility what someone does with the message. Our responsibility is simply to share. The Holy Spirit handles the rest.

God blesses those who faithfully proclaim His truth, even when it's difficult or unpopular.

Will You Turn On Your Light?

Right now, someone in your life is searching for truth. They're walking in darkness, trying different solutions, longing for something real. They need light.

You have that light. The question is: **Will you turn it on?**

A Challenge for This Week

Maybe God has already brought someone to mind as you've read this. That's the Holy Spirit nudging you. Don't ignore it.

Here are three simple prayers to guide you:

In my readiness: "Lord, I am listening."

Create space this week to be still. Turn off distractions. Practice availability.

In my reception: "Lord, I accept what You say."

Stop making excuses. Stop stiff-arming the truth. Receive God's Word—all of it—with humility.

In my responsibility: "Lord, I will share what You have said."

Have that conversation you've been avoiding. Tell someone what God has done in your life. It doesn't have to be eloquent or perfectly theological. Just authentic.

The Next Generation Is Hungry for Truth

Here's something exciting: The rising generation is tired of the noise. They've been offered a menu of belief options, told "whatever works for you is fine." But they're rejecting that relativism. They're starving for someone to tell them what is actually, objectively **true**.

This is an incredible time to be a missionary for Jesus. People—especially young people—are asking, "Please, just tell me what is true."

Will you be ready with an answer?

It Gets Easier

I'll be honest—sharing your faith is scary at first. But the more you do it, the easier it becomes. The fear diminishes with practice. You gain confidence not in yourself, but in the power of the gospel and the faithfulness of God.

Samuel was just a boy when God first spoke to him. He was afraid to deliver a difficult message. But he obeyed anyway. And God used him to become one of Israel's greatest prophets—the one who anointed King David, a man after God's own heart.

God wants to use you too. Right where you are. In your workplace, your neighborhood, your family. You don't have to go overseas (though you should get your passport ready, just in case!). Your mission field is wherever God has placed you **today**.

Turn On Your Light

You have something powerful. Don't let it sit unused in the drawer of your life.

Be ready. Be still and listen for God's voice.
Receive His truth—even when it's uncomfortable.
Share it boldly—even when it's scary.

Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and let none of his words fall to the ground.

The same can be true for you.

So here's my question: Is your flashlight on?

Philip challenged us from the pulpit after returning from a mission trip to Nicaragua with only two hours of sleep—proof that God gives strength when we make ourselves available to Him. His message was clear: We can't just carry the light. We have to turn it on. This week, let's do exactly that.