

5-Day Devotional: Rise, Shine, Finish

Day 1: Standing in Your God-Given Position

Reading: Isaiah 60:1-3; Ephesians 5:8-14

Devotional: The call to "arise and shine" is not a suggestion—it's a command to take your position as a light-bearer. You've been translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light, and God's glory rests upon you. This isn't about your own strength or worthiness; it's about the complete fullness of God's authority, power, character, and nature dwelling within you. The darkness covering the earth cannot penetrate the light within you. Today, refuse to hide or minimize what God has placed in you. Stand up and recognize that you carry the visible manifestation of God's presence. You are not merely surviving—you are called to thrive and illuminate the darkness around you.

Reflection Question: Where have you been hiding your light? What would change if you fully embraced your position as a carrier of God's glory?

Day 2: No Coexistence with Darkness

Reading: John 3:16-21; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Devotional: You cannot have light and darkness occupying the same space simultaneously. Jesus declared that people love darkness because it hides their deeds, but you have been called out of that hiding place. The enemy has no interest in dialogue or compromise—his only agenda is destruction. Stop trying to make peace with what God has called you to overcome. You are not called to defend against darkness but to dispel it, push it back, and reclaim territory. The Son of God came to liquidate the devil's activities, and He has equipped you with everything needed to finish that job. Your responsibility is clear: confront the darkness, resist it, and drive it out through the authority given to you.

Reflection Question: What darkness have you been tolerating or trying to coexist with? What steps will you take today to push it back?

Day 3: Possessing the Land, Not Defending It

Reading: Joshua 1:1-9; Matthew 16:18-19

Devotional: Jesus said He would build His church and the gates of hell would not prevail against it. Gates are not offensive weapons—they are entry points that can be broken down. You are not hiding behind walls; you are the battering ram God uses to storm the gates of hell and reclaim what the enemy has stolen. Throughout Scripture, God positioned His people offensively, not defensively. He calls you to possess the land, to take territory, to advance His kingdom. The full measure of God's glory rests on you for this very purpose. You serve a Jesus who conquered death, holds the keys to hell, and causes demons to tremble at His name. That same power is in you.

Reflection Question: What territory has the enemy taken from you that God is calling you to reclaim? How will you move from a defensive to an offensive posture?

Day 4: Walking with One Foot in the Supernatural

Reading: Acts 4:23-31; Hebrews 11:1-6

Devotional: Faith positions you to live with one foot in the natural world and one foot in the supernatural realm. The early church, when threatened with persecution, didn't pray for safety—they prayed for boldness to speak God's word while He performed signs and wonders. They asked God for what they needed to finish the job. As God's glory increases in this season, expect to operate in unprecedented supernatural power. Signs, wonders, and harvest are coming, but so is opposition. Don't be surprised when the darkness pushes back—it confirms you're advancing. The world will not love you

because the spirit operating in them hates everything about God. Count it joy to be worthy of suffering for His name.

Reflection Question: What would your life look like if you consistently operated with one foot in the supernatural? What boldness are you asking God for today?

Day 5: Finishing the Job

Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8; Philippians 3:12-14

Devotional: The enemy is most dangerous when he's in retreat because he's regrouping and rearming. That's why God consistently told Israel to pursue their enemies—don't give them time to recover. This is not the season to take your foot off the gas or get comfortable. Whatever God has given you to do, finish it with all your might. Don't be distracted by opposition or discouraged by the cost. You are entering an unparalleled time of God's glory, and everything spoken over you will come to pass. The question is: will you steward well what God is giving you? Will you do whatever it takes to walk in the fullness He has for you? Your destiny is bright, your future is secured, and your victory is certain. Now finish the job.

Reflection Question: What has God called you to complete that you've allowed to remain unfinished? What commitment will you make today to finish what He started in you?

Rise, Shine, Finish – Scripture References from the Sermon

Explicitly Mentioned References:

1. **Isaiah 60:1-3** - Main text of the sermon discussing arising, shining, and God's glory
2. **John 3** - Referenced regarding men loving darkness rather than light

3. **1 John 3:8 (Phillips version)** - "The Son of God came to earth with the express purpose of liquidating the devil's activities"
4. **Revelation 1** - Referenced regarding Jesus being alive and having authority
5. **John 17** - Referenced regarding Jesus giving His glory to believers
6. **Acts 4** - Referenced regarding the apostles asking for boldness to speak the Word with signs and wonders following

Alluded or Thematically Referenced:

8. **Colossians 1:13** - Being translated out of the kingdom of darkness
9. **Matthew 16:18** - "I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it"
10. **Acts 2:41, 47** - 3,000 saved in one day; the Lord adding to the church daily
11. **Matthew 23:37-39** - Jesus weeping over Jerusalem

Suggested Verses Aligned with Main Themes:

12. **2 Corinthians 4:6** - God shining light in our hearts
13. **Ephesians 5:8-14** - Walking as children of light
14. **Philippians 2:15** - Shining as lights in the world
15. **Matthew 5:14-16** - Being the light of the world
16. **Romans 13:12** - Casting off works of darkness
17. **1 Peter 2:9** - Called out of darkness into marvelous light
18. **2 Corinthians 3:18** - Being transformed from glory to glory
19. **John 1:5** - Light shining in darkness
20. **James 4:7** - Resisting the devil

Rise, Shine, Finish – Small Group and Personal Study Guide

Text: Isaiah 60:1-3

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: Share a time when you started something with great enthusiasm but struggled to finish it. What made it difficult to complete?

Key Takeaways

1. **God's glory rests on believers** - We carry the complete fullness of His authority, power, character, and nature
 2. **We are not called to coexist with darkness** - Our mission is to confront, resist, and dispel it
 3. **The church operates offensively, not defensively** - We're called to possess land, not just defend it
 4. **Finishing the job requires intentionality** - We must push through to completion, not settle for comfort
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Discussion Questions

Section 1: Understanding the Message

1. Reverend Mark defined three Hebrew words: "arise" (take your position), "shine" (emit light, not just reflect), and "glory" (weighty manifestation of God). Which of these definitions challenged or changed your understanding most? Why?
2. What does it mean practically that "darkness covers the earth but doesn't cover the church"? How should this truth affect our daily lives?
3. The sermon mentioned three common responses to darkness: magnify it, minimize it, or embrace it. Which response do you find yourself defaulting to? What would a biblical response look like instead?

Section 2: Going Deeper

4. Reverend Mark said, "God is only going to give you as much as you'll take care of." What do you think this means in terms of spiritual responsibility and stewardship?
5. Discuss the statement: "We are not holding the darkness back; we're pushing it back." How does this shift in perspective change how you view spiritual warfare?
6. What does it mean to "stand with one foot in the natural and one foot in the supernatural"? What would this look like in your everyday life?

Section 3: Personal Application

7. Reverend Mark mentioned that many people leave church "fired up" on Sunday but are "out of gas" by Tuesday. Why does this happen? What environments or habits drain your spiritual vitality?
8. When Jesus said He would build His church and the gates of hell wouldn't prevail against it, He was describing an offensive position. What "gates" (entry/exit points of darkness) do you need to assault in your life, family, or community?
9. Reverend Mark prayed: "I don't care what it takes, but I will experience your glory this year." Are you willing to pray that prayer? What fears or reservations do you have about making that commitment?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge: Choose ONE to focus on:

Option 1: Identify Your Position

- Spend time in prayer asking God to show you the specific position He's called you to take

- Write down what you sense God saying about your role in pushing back darkness
- Share it with one trusted friend for accountability

Option 2: Environmental Assessment

- Evaluate the "environments" you regularly inhabit (physical spaces, media consumption, relationships)
- Identify which ones drain your spiritual vitality and which ones strengthen it
- Make one concrete change to eliminate or reduce exposure to a draining environment

Option 3: Glory-Carrier Mindset

- Each morning this week, declare: "The full measure of God's authority, power, character, and nature rests on me"
- Before entering your workplace, school, or other environments, pray: "Lord, let Your glory shine through me today"
- Keep a journal of any unusual opportunities, conversations, or divine appointments that occur

Option 4: Finish Something

- Identify one thing God has asked you to do that remains incomplete
- Create a specific plan with deadlines to finish it
- Ask your small group to hold you accountable

Closing Prayer

Pray together:

- Thank God for His glory that rests on you
- Ask for boldness to confront and dispel darkness
- Commit to finishing what God has started in each person

- Pray for expectation of signs, wonders, and harvest
 - Ask for strength to face opposition with joy
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Leader Notes

- Balance the call to action with grace for those in different seasons
- Encourage without condemning those who are struggling
- Celebrate small victories and progress, not just dramatic transformation
- Create space for honest discussion about fears regarding spiritual warfare and opposition