

## **2015 Lighting the Way! Part 4: "You and Me, Bearing the Light!"**

**"I have set you to be a great light to the unsaved, that you should be for salvation unto the ends of the earth!"**

**Acts 13.47** God wants us to give of ourselves like He gave to us! He wants us to put Him first, to trust Him, so that He can take care of the rest! What's true regarding the least of earthly treasures, money... Is more true regarding the issues of the heart, self, will, purpose...

**We have been called to bear the light and to be a lighthouse in a darkening world!** Have observed the hand of God on our group, blessing us abundantly... We can see, feel and hear the growth! Have taken note of our potential to do "exceedingly abundantly above..." norms... And that greater obedience to the tithe, the first tenth, will open new doors of opportunity for us!

**But it will take much more than our monetary giving to accomplish the mission!** Requires our affections/compassion... Requires our time/focus... Requires our presence/energy... Requires our creativity/flexibility...  
**"Nothing but people's needs are going to be etched in concrete!" Meeting those needs will require everything else! And it will require "it" of all of us!**

**Demonstration Asides...** Last week we voted on new Council Members... We couldn't go wrong with any of the six candidates... We weren't surprised by the dynamics of the vote... What was shocking was the small number of members who voted! 1:4 More shocking was the numbers of people who were members who didn't "re-up/update!" 210/563

We have a good membership system! Keeps us updated and real! Each year we re-up to affirm "we hear the Lord saying this is the place for us!" *BTW, lots of husbands/wives missing!* And every January we ask for a prompt response... Keeps us from saying things like, "we have a six thousand member church!" Want to know the true size and strength for our battle/mission!

***But it only works with cooperation!***

**Bearing the light to our community is only going to work if we shine individually– and if we build, and keep, a lighthouse corporately!**

**You and me, Lighting the Way... The Story of Light...** "In the beginning God said let there be light, and there was... **G1.1-4** Then He created two more lights, Adam and Eve to shine with His glory! **v26,27** Sin entered and *turned- them- off!* **G3.6** Noah and his family turned them on again! **G6.8,18 9.1,9** And the fears and pride of Babel turned them off, again! **G11.4** Abraham, and his many stars: Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, intermittent, unsustainable, lights! **G15.8** Lights of the Judges, Kings, Prophets and Priests! **Judges thru Malachi** Then darkness and silence from **Malachi to Matthew!** Then Jesus, the Light of the world! **LIGHTS ON!** Then Jesus, Lamb of God, dead for the sins of the whole world! **LIGHTS OFF!** Then the Day Of Pentecost! **Acts 2**  
**And we were called to bear the light to the world! LIGHTS ON... Mt5**

**Now we need "The Rest of the Story..." "I am the Light of the world, and the one who follows Me will not walk in the darkness but will bear the light of life!" John 8.12**

**The Story of Light...**

"In Jesus is life and the life in Him is the light of men and *the Light shined in the darkness and the darkness didn't seize or perceive the Light...*" **John 1.4,5** "He was the true Light that lighted every man that came into the world and the world didn't know Him... He came to His own and they didn't know Him either!" **v9-11** "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever would believe in Him would not perish but have everlasting life. God *didn't send His Son into the world to condemn the world* but so that the world, by Him, could be saved. *But this is the condemnation of men, that the Light is come into the world and they loved*

*darkness more than light because their actions were evil.”* **John 3.16-19** “For everyone who does evil hates the light *and won’t come to the light because his actions will be reprov’d.* But the ones who do the truth come to the light so that their actions may be seen to be works of God!” **John 3.20-21** “I have come as a light into the world, so whoever believes in Me should not continue to live in darkness.” **John 12.46** “You are the light of the world (now) and a city on a hill that can’t be hidden... so let your light shine that all men can see your works and glorify God in heaven!” **Matt 5.14-16** “I have set you to be a great light to the unsaved, that you should be for salvation unto the ends of the earth!” **Acts 13.47** “The night is far spent, the day is at hand so cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light! **R13.12** “But in your confidence that you are a light to those in darkness make sure that you aren’t in darkness...” **R2.19-21** “Make sure you are not unequally yoked with unbelievers for there is no fellowship between the light and darkness.” **2Cor 6.14** “Because God who commanded the light to shine in the darkness has shined in your hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God that is in Christ Jesus.” **2Cor4.6** “I say to you, he that receives you who I send, receives Me and the One who sent Me.” **John 13.20** “Peace be to you... As the Father has sent Me so I am now sending you!” **John 20.21** “I have come to make you ministers of the things you have seen and I have delivered you from the very people I am sending you to, to open their eyes and to turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God so that they may receive the forgiveness of their sins and obtain the inheritance of those who are sanctified by faith in Me.” **Acts 16.16-18** “He that hears you hears Me, and, he that despises you despises Me!” **Luke 10.16** “What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light, what you hear in your ear, preach from the housetops!” **Mt 10.27** “And do not be afraid! If you, at the same time, speak for Me before men, I will, at the same time, speak for you before My Father in heaven!” **Mt 10.28,32**

**As Bearers of Light... We must understand God’s expectation of us as Holy Spirit ignited people!** Stop covering up the candle of the Lord! Can’t light up our own houses... and pull down the shades! “Living stones of the temple of God in a shining kingdom that cannot be hidden!”

**“Let your light so shine, that people see the good works in you, and flowing from you, and glorify God!” Mt5.16**

**We must be careful not to mix “fires!”** OT story about two men who knew what they were supposed to do but offered God their service, their “own way.” **Lev10.1, Numbers 3.4 26.61** “More than one way...” “More than one opportunity...” Lust. Pride. Conceit. Rebellion.

**“There is a way that seems right to a man but the end of his way is death!” Proverbs 14.12 16.25**

**We must understand that not everyone will be happy about the light!** For us, it’s a matter of letting our plans unravel for God’s plans to unfold... Not always the most convenient times... But the stories of blessing are plentiful... For others, may be a matter of sinfulness... Or a case of “GLARING LIGHT!” Either way, reactions can be sharp!

**“God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind!” 2Tim1.7**

**You and me, Lighting the Way...**