

Resonate

BIBLE STUDY

**“LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!
LIGHTS -THE ILLUMINATION
OF THE WORD”**

We benefit from light everyday. The Lord compares the Word to light. It has a way of benefiting us on a daily basis. This comparison can teach us how to allow the light of the Word to illuminate our hearts.

DAY
1

Today's Scripture:

Psalm 119:105; Romans 8:28-29

The Word

When I was younger, my family and I went on a guided tour of a cave. During the presentation the lights were turned out. I waved my hand in front of my face yet I could see nothing. The darkness was overwhelming. The tour guide turned on a small flashlight. The light penetrated the cave. It was amazing to see how light truly drives away the darkness.

We live in a spiritually dark world. How do we find our way when we cannot see the hand in front of our face? The Word of the Lord is the light that directs us.

Psalm 119:105

¹⁰⁵*Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light for my path.*

Verse 105: The Word is a lamp as well as a light. There is a difference between the two, even though both give off light. A lamp is more like a modern day flashlight. For those of you who go camping, you know the necessity of this device. When walking around at night, the flashlight gives you just enough light to make each step secure. It keeps you from falling into holes or tripping on branches. You cannot view the entire campground with a flashlight yet you can be sure that your walk to the bathroom is safe!

The Word of God gives us guidance to know what step to take next. It will not explain the next 50 years of our lives but it will show us what to do that day. It can help us each moment so that we may be safe from the sin that so easily trips us up. By knowing the Word, we can be confident in our day to day choices, walking securely based upon what we know is true.

As well as being our lamp, the Word is also a light for our path. This is more like a floodlight. It is a high powered light that allows us to view an entire area, not just a small part of it. The Word helps give clear direction in our lives. This is one overlying purpose in order to guide us in our journey. This purpose is to become like Christ.

Romans 8:28-29

²⁸And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Verse 28-29: The flashlight part of our lives is verse 28. It is all the events, all the steps we have taken in life, which are being worked to good for us. The good is not that our circumstances will all turn out the way we want. Instead, as verse 29 shows, the good is that we are being conformed into the likeness of Jesus. This is the path that each of us is on. We are all being molded into being like Christ. However, each of our paths is individualized. For the Lord alone knows what He needs to bring into our lives to transform us. Thus, we know from the Word the lighted path, the overall direction of our lives, is to be like Jesus. Also, from the Word we learn the moment by moment steps on how to move toward the purpose of God in our lives. That is why we need both the lamp and the light of the Word.

Up Close and Personal

Thank the Lord for giving us the Word.

If the overall purpose of your life is to be conformed into the image of Christ, what are you doing to walk in that direction?

In what ways can you utilize the Word of God to help you throughout the day?

If we make decisions without the Word of God, how will that affect us not only in the moment but for our overall spiritual path?

If you know the benefit of the Word, how are you accessing it on a daily basis? How could you increase your time with the Word?

DAY 2

Today's Scripture:

The Word

Psalm 119:105; 1 Corinthians 3:1-2; Acts 17:10-11

At the end of the lesson yesterday, I touched on the fact that each of our paths is individualized. Read our key verse again and notice the word “my”.

Psalm 119:105

*¹⁰⁵Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light for my path.*

Verse 105: It is a lamp for *my* feet and a light for *my* path. This is my individual walk with the Lord. I cannot copy the walk of others. I am who God created me to be. I need to discover His purpose and will for my life. Also, I am responsible to learn the Word. The Word affects my individual life. I cannot expect only pastors to know the Word. Every believer is called to learn and live out the Word. If you are not learning the Word, you are not growing as a believer.

1 Corinthians 3:1-2

¹Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.

Verse 1-2: The Corinthian church was not growing spiritually. They were staying in the same place and not walking in the light. They were relearning the basics of the faith because they were unwilling to press forward toward maturity. They were acting like the world and not like Christ. We are walking in the way of the Corinthians when we do not make an effort to learn more about the Word and live out what we learn. This caused Paul to rebuke them and that same rebuke is heard today. Do not be like the Corinthians, instead be like the Bereans.

Acts 17:10-11

¹⁰As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Verse 10-11: The Bereans' noble character is connected with the Word. They were eager to study the Word for themselves. They were not satisfied to just take the

message of the preaching of the apostle Paul. Instead, in their own time, they studied the Word everyday. In order for us to be of noble character, to be like Christ Himself, we must be in the Word of God each day.

We live in a country that allows us access to biblical studies. You can read the Bible, listen to sermons, watch pastors on the internet, and so much more. Discover a system that works for you. Make it an appointment. Just as you keep school, work, and social appointments; keep your meeting with the Word.

Up Close and Personal

Ask the Lord to help you to be in His Word on a daily basis.

What prevents you from being in the Word everyday?

Are you willing to obey the Lord in this matter of daily Bible study? If so, what steps do you need to take in order to make it happen?

Think through the following in order to set up a system that works for you.

Time of day for Bible study:

Place:

System (reading, listening, internet, etc.):

Materials needed (pen, paper, journal, C.D. player, etc.):

Projected starting date (when you are planning to implement doing this daily):

DAY
3

Today's Scripture:

Romans 10:17; 1Peter 2:9; 1 John 1:5-7;
2 Corinthians 4:6

The Word

The Word illuminates our way. But what does that mean in a practical sense? For one, it is by the Word that faith is developed in our life.

Romans 10:17

¹⁷Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Verse 17: We were in the darkness of sin. When we heard the Word of salvation, we went from darkness to light. The Word penetrated our dark hearts and led us onto the path of eternal light.

1 Peter 2:9

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Verse 9: As believers, we are now in the light. We have the responsibility to live in that light.

1 John 1:5-6

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.

Verse 5-6: Only you can choose to walk in the light. If you do, then you will have fellowship with the Lord God Almighty. In addition, your relationships with others will be enhanced.

1 John 1:7

⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Verse 7: We were called from darkness to light. The death of Jesus made this possible. As we walk in the light, His sacrifice which we accepted by faith continues to impact us. In other words, the faith that brought us to Christ continues to grow as we learn more and live it out in our relationships with others. Faith grows by the Word of God because we are walking in the light of the Word.

2 Corinthians 4:6

⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

Verse 26: The knowledge of the Lord is the light in our lives. This is received from the Word. The more you know Him, the more you are in His light as you progress in your faith. Walk in the light, as He is in the light.

Up Close and Personal

Thank the Lord that the Word can impact our daily life.

How would growing in faith and spending time in the Word be connected?

Why would our relationships be affected by the amount of time we spend in the Word?

DAY
4

Today's Scripture:
2 Samuel 22:29-37

The Word

A quality of light is that it does not mix with darkness. These two never merge. It is either light or darkness, never anything in between. In our lives, we are either walking in the light or we are in darkness. There is nothing gray. However, wherever there is darkness in our lives, the Lord is willing to change it to light.

2 Samuel 22:29

²⁹ *You are my lamp, O LORD;
the LORD turns my darkness into light.*

Verse 29: The Lord is our lamp. By His light, we can become light. The darkness of our life is exposed by Him so that we may repent and replace our evil actions with ones of righteousness. Because of the light of the Lord, coming from His Word, the following are possible:

1. We have victory over the enemy's attacks in our lives.

2 Samuel 22:30

³⁰ *With your help I can advance against a troop ;
with my God I can scale a wall.*

2. We are protected.

2 Samuel 22:31

³¹ *"As for God, his way is perfect;
the word of the LORD is flawless.
He is a shield
for all who take refuge in him.*

3. We have the strength to live righteously.

2 Samuel 22:32-33

³² *For who is God besides the LORD ?
And who is the Rock except our God?*

³³ *It is God who arms me with strength
and makes my way perfect.*

4. We are able to ascend to new spiritual heights.

2 Samuel 22:34

³⁴ *He makes my feet like the feet of a deer;
he enables me to stand on the heights.*

5. We can have spiritual victory in our lives.

2 Samuel 22:35-36

³⁵ *He trains my hands for battle;
my arms can bend a bow of bronze.*

³⁶ *You give me your shield of victory;
you stoop down to make me great.*

6. We can be kept safe from falling into sin.

2 Samuel 22:37

*³⁷ You broaden the path beneath me,
so that my ankles do not turn.*

The Lord is our lamp. Allow Him to turn the darkness in your heart into light.

Up Close and Personal

Confess any darkness, or sin, in your life. Ask God to replace it with His light.

Which one of the benefits of the Word do you need in your life right now?

How does the Lord replace darkness in you with His light?

What thoughts do you have about the statement “In our lives, we are either walking in the light or we are in darkness”?

DAY
5

Today's Scripture:

Ephesians 5:8-16; Proverbs 20:27; Psalm 119:129-130

The Word

You are light. Look in the mirror and say “I am light”. It feels weird. I don't feel like I radiate anything in the morning. But spiritually speaking, we are light. Our eyes have been opened to the Lord and to His ways. Thus, our lives need to reflect Him.

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³But

everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said:

*"Wake up, O sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."*

Verse 8-14: You were once in darkness. But you are not anymore. You should not be living out the ways of darkness. The Word of God helps you to know what is dark and what is light. By being in the Word you are awakened to all you can be in and through Christ. But you must allow the light of the Word to shine on you. If not, you may waste your life.

Ephesians 5:15-16

¹⁵*Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.*

Verse 15: You are living in dark days. Evil is prevalent. But you have the opportunity to live wisely amongst the unwise, righteously amongst the evil. But in order to do this, you must understand what God desires from your life. The only way you are going to know God's thoughts is to be in His Word. He wrote it for you so that you could connect with Him. But you must take time to allow the Lord to access your life through the Word.

Proverbs 20:27

²⁷*The lamp of the LORD searches the spirit of a man;
it searches out his inmost being.*

Verse 27: The Lord knows everything about you. When you study the Word, you know His thoughts about your life. With His help, you can change your ways so that all of your life pleases Him. But you cannot do this unless you know what pleases Him and that is only discovered in the word.

Psalms 119:129-130

¹²⁹*Your statutes are wonderful;
therefore I obey them.*

¹³⁰*The unfolding of your words gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.*

Verse 129-130: Allow the light of the Word unfold in your life so that you may learn the wisdom of the Lord.

Up Close and Personal

Let the Word of God shine on you. Ask Him to illuminate your life today.

What dark ways in your life require the light of God?

How will you allow the Word of God to change this darkness into light?

What specific Scripture addresses your particular need for change?