

I Shine

HOW TO IMPACT YOUR WORLD
GOD'S WAY



DR. SOMTO IGBOANUGO

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Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, unless otherwise stated.

Bible versions referenced include KJV, NIV, ESV, and AMP.

ISBN: 978-1-9192690-0-9

First Edition – 2025

Published in the United Kingdom by BeaconBloom Publishing

Distributed internationally

Acknowledgements

First and above all, I give glory to God, the One who planted this message in my heart and gave me the strength to bring it to life. Without His grace, these pages would be nothing more than ink on paper.

To my beloved wife, Amazing Igboanugo — your love, prayers, and unwavering belief in me have been my anchor. You are God's reminder to me that love truly sustains vision.

To my siblings, my first cheer team and lifelong companions, thank you for standing with me, celebrating me, and believing in the vision God placed in my heart. Your support has been a constant wind beneath my wings.

To my church family, and to my pastor and leadership mentor, Pastor Joshua Kehinde on whose platform I first preached this message that has now become a book, thank you for being the fertile soil where my faith took root and grew strong.

To the mentors who spoke life when I doubted my voice, your encouragement echoes through every chapter.

To the unseen hands — editors, proofreaders, and designers — thank you for shaping vision into something tangible, beautiful, and lasting.

And finally, to you, dear reader: this book is also your story. May it remind you that your light matters, your healing is possible, and your purpose is divine. Shine, because the world needs your glow.

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Introduction: A New Generation Unleashed

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."

— *Matthew 5:14*

Have you ever wondered what it truly means when God calls you to shine?

My desire to write this book began a few years ago while at a retreat, where I was both a speaker and an attendee seeking an encounter with God. I stood before a room of eager faces, tasked with leading a discussion about being the light of the world. What began as a simple chat with about six people in that small group sparked something profound within me, a divine whisper that would not be silenced.

“What does it mean to be God’s light in this world?” I asked the group.

For twenty minutes, ideas flowed freely. But even after everyone dispersed, that question burned within me like an ember refusing to die out. In that moment, the Holy Spirit began unveiling revelations I had never seen before, illuminating truths that had been hidden in plain sight all along.

Your light isn't just something you carry, it's who you are.

The Lord placed a gentle but persistent nudge on my heart: “Go deeper on this subject.” Shortly after, I was invited to preach. I spent time in prayer, seeking to hear what the Lord would have me share with the people. I received a strong leading to speak on this very subject, and I dove into Scripture with renewed passion. What God revealed transformed my understanding completely. I discovered that being a light bearer isn’t just about occasional good deeds, it’s about embracing your divine identity and purpose with such clarity that darkness simply cannot stand in your presence.

God doesn't call the equipped; He equips the called. And you, dear reader, have been called to shine.

Over the years, I’ve shared these insights in various settings, watching eyes widen and hearts ignite as people grasp their true potential as God’s luminaries. This book contains more than mere teachings, it holds heaven-breathed revelations that can revolutionize how you see yourself and your place in God’s grand design.

Because **the world doesn't need more Christians who *know about* light, it needs Christians who *know how to shine*.**

Your radiance matters. Your position matters. Your purpose matters.

It's time to unleash the brilliance God has placed within you.

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

The Divine Metamorphosis

Transformation isn't just a possibility; it's your spiritual birthright.

The word *metamorphosis* describes a striking change so profound that what emerges bears little resemblance to what once was. It's the caterpillar becoming a butterfly, the carbon transforming into a diamond, the darkness giving way to light.

I don't know where you find yourself as you open these pages. Perhaps you're wrestling with character flaws that seem impossible to overcome. Maybe you carry a dream in your heart that feels perpetually out of reach. It could be weakness, poverty, or illness that's shadowing your path right now. The real question isn't where you are, it's where you're starting from.

In 2 Corinthians 4:6 (KJV), Scripture declares: *“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts...”* This powerful truth reminds us that the same Creator who spoke light into primordial darkness is actively illuminating our inner being. He is able to completely transform your life in a short while.

Your darkness isn't your destiny; it's simply the canvas on which God's light will shine most brilliantly.

Through the pages of this book, God will carve a pathway for you even through the problems you're experiencing. Like a butterfly in its larval stage with no eyes and no wings, you may feel limited and confined. But after undergoing transformation, everything changes.

I Shine: How to Impact Your World God's Way

Consider the fruit tree, which begins as a tiny seed buried in darkness before emerging to produce abundance. This is the difference between a believer and their final product when they undergo the process of divine metamorphosis. Many of us arrive as seeds. And for true metamorphosis to take place, that seed must first be planted in darkness.

This is the aim of this book, to trigger a supernatural metamorphosis in you. To guide you through a journey of transformation into becoming who God designed you to be.

Soon enough you'll discover:

- How to radiate and stand out in an increasingly dim world
- The divine connection between God as light and your role as His light bearer
- How your unique positioning is no accident but a divine appointment
- Practical strategies to illuminate the spaces only you can reach, impacting your school, workplace, and community
- How to fuel the flame and increase your brightness
- Wisdom for when your light flickers, and how to overcome
- How to leave a legacy by multiplying the light

When you truly understand who you are in Christ, every room you enter becomes brighter by your mere presence.

I invite you on this transformative journey. Don't just passively read, engage deeply with each story and principle. Pause to reflect on how these truths apply specifically to your life. Most importantly, commit to implementing what you learn.



Chapter 1: Radiate: Standing Out in a Dim World

**Which came first in the creation of our universe? Was it darkness?
Or was it light?**

The very first pages of the Bible provide us with a profound answer:

***"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was
upon the face of the deep.
And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.
And God said, Let there be light: and there was light."***

(Genesis 1:1–3, KJV)

This passage shows us that darkness came before light. If light had been there first, there would have been no need to create it.

What does this reveal about the journey of life we're all walking?

It highlights a powerful truth: **the problem often exists before the solution. Darkness before light. Chaos before order. This isn't a flaw in creation; it's the intentional design of our world.**

Your struggles aren't accidents; they're opportunities waiting for your light to shine through them.

Life frequently surrounds us with darkness, with challenges, obstacles, and seemingly impossible situations before light, or solutions, emerge victorious. This pattern isn't reserved just for creation; it's woven into the very fabric of our everyday existence.

Don't think that your life is the only one surrounded by problems. In fact, vision is often birthed in the womb of problems. Innovation arises as a direct response to difficulties. Consider how a precious baby forms within the darkness of the womb, protected by the fluid-filled amniotic sac. Or how a tiny seed must first be buried in the darkness of soil before it can sprout into life. Even the magnificent butterfly begins as a caterpillar wrapped in the darkness of its cocoon before emerging transformed.

Your darkest moments aren't your destruction; they're your development in disguise.

These examples aren't coincidences; they're divine patterns showing us that darkness often precedes development and transformation. They also serve as reminders that our world is indeed dim, shrouded in various forms of darkness. Look around and you'll see the evidence: poverty, sickness, disease, ignorance, fear, rejection, depression, emotional distress, anger, hatred, falsehood, and betrayal.

All these shadows characterise our world as dim, if not outright dark.

In a world of increasing darkness, God isn't calling you to simply survive the night; He's calling you to shine and transform it with His light.

But here's where your story takes a divine turn. You were created not merely to exist in this darkness, but to radiate light into it. Just as God spoke light into primordial darkness, He has positioned you to shine His light into the shadows around you.

Your calling isn't to blend in with the darkness, but to stand out brilliantly against it.

The question isn't whether darkness exists, clearly it does. The real question is: will you allow God to use you as His instrument of light? Will you choose to radiate His presence, His love, His truth, and His power into the dim corners of our world?

The darkness around you isn't your destiny, it's your opportunity to shine.

What happens when there is no light?

In darkness, you can't really see. Ideas remain invisible, unrealised potential gathers dust. You can't find your way forward in life. Progress halts because you dare not run when you cannot see the path ahead. Fear becomes your companion, paralysing your ability to try new things. You stumble, bumping into obstacles and making countless avoidable mistakes. Resources invested today vanish tomorrow, untraceable in the shadows, simply because one makes decisions based on guessing and devoid of light (insight). If a danger lies ahead, you could walk right into it.

Darkness doesn't just dim your environment; it diminishes your entire existence.

This is what darkness exposes a person to - a life of limitation and frustration. Without light, your God-given potential remains locked away, hidden even from yourself. You cannot see your reflection in a mirror shrouded in darkness. Light is what reveals the gifts and abilities God has planted within you. It illuminates those treasures of potential that lie dormant inside, waiting to be discovered and developed.

This spiritual truth manifests powerfully in everyday life.

Some people work diligently, pouring their hearts into their labour, yet remain unnoticed and unappreciated. Others possess remarkable beauty inside and out yet no one truly sees them or considers them for meaningful relationship. Many lives are surrounded by this spiritual darkness, brilliant minds go unrecommended, incredible talents go uncelebrated, divine purposes go unfulfilled.

You weren't designed to blend into darkness; you were created to stand out in brilliance.

Such a life becomes entangled with barriers and problems at every turn, especially when the devil, who embodies darkness itself, is in control of one's life.

This is the state of our world, completely lost on many grounds.

Lost in identity. Lost in values. Lost in gender. Lost in purpose. Lost in zeal. Lost in lasting truth. Lost in love. Lost in accountability. Lost in emotional control. Lost in family structure. Lost in morality. Lost in justice. Lost in respectful authority. Lost in patience. Lost in vision. Lost in hope and eternal perspective.

The world isn't just experiencing darkness; it's drowning in it.

This pervasive darkness surrounds our world like a suffocating blanket. And while we may understand darkness as physical, it also represents mental and spiritual darkness, and these form the core of the darkness we face today.

The problems we face, whether personal struggles or global crises, are frequently rooted in these two dimensions: mental and spiritual darkness.

The greatest battles aren't fought in what we see, but in what we believe and perceive.

This is precisely why you need light.

More than that, you need the life-changing revelation that you *are* light, divinely appointed to confront and solve the problems darkness creates. You are not merely a spectator in this cosmic conflict between light and darkness; you are a participant with divine purpose.

The Bible declares this transformation with power and certainty:

“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.” — Colossians 1:13 (KJV)

Your salvation wasn't just about securing heaven; it was about shifting kingdoms.

This magnificent truth means that becoming a child of God exempts your life from being oppressed by the various manifestations of darkness. You have been repositioned, translated from one realm to another. The oppressive weight of darkness no longer has legitimate authority over your life, your mind, your future, or your purpose.

You don't just carry light, you embody it. Where you go, darkness must flee.

God has called you to be a solution in this darkened world. Your light isn't meant to be hidden or dimmed to accommodate the darkness around you. Rather, you are called to shine with increasing brightness, driving back shadows and creating space for others to find their way.

In a world where so many are lost, you have been found. In a world where confusion reigns, you carry clarity. In a world desperate for answers, you bear divine wisdom.

The question isn't whether darkness exists, it clearly does. The question is: will you shine?

Was Anyone There Before Darkness?

You might wonder about this question. At creation, we see that darkness existed before light. But was anyone there before darkness? Absolutely, there was.

Genesis 1:1 tells us, *"In the beginning, God."* Yes, God was there at the beginning, even before darkness came to be.

It's possible to stare into your darkness and miss seeing the God who stands behind it all.

Just like the children of Israel, who saw Goliath but didn't see the God who could help them overcome. It's possible to obsess over the giants in Canaan and completely miss the God who promised to lead His people into the land of milk and honey. And yes, it's certainly possible to see only the lions in the den while remaining blind to the God who possesses the power to shut their mouths.

Despite whatever challenges you're facing and the struggles that seem to overwhelm your life, hold fast to this truth: God was there before your problems began, God is here with you now, and God will always be there. He remains behind the scenes, orchestrating change when you least expect it.

Called to Be Light Bearers

God, in His infinite wisdom, understood that our broken world would need human vessels to bring transformation. This is why He commissioned us as *“the light of the world.”* He entrusted us with the sacred role of light bearers.

This divine commissioning isn’t some modern invention, it’s firmly established in Scripture, and its purpose is made clear through the life of the first Light Bearer - Jesus Christ.

“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.” Isaiah 9:2 (KJV)

“The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.”

Matthew 4:16 (KJV)

Notice how these scriptures appear first in Isaiah and then again in Matthew. The second reference confirms the fulfilment of the original prophecy, that a time would come when people walking in darkness would see light. This prophecy pointed directly to Jesus entering our world. As Matthew’s words affirm: now that Jesus had arrived, light was finally breaking into our darkness.

This is why Jesus boldly declared, *“I am the light of the world.”* But before He left, He made a bold and emphatic statement in Matthew 5:14: *“You are the light of the world.”*

Oh my! What an extraordinary privilege, to be given the power to illuminate your world and change its very course. What a privilege indeed.

When Jesus walked this earth, He brought light to countless dark situations. Everywhere He went, transformation followed. He encountered people drowning in weakness and sorrow and turned their

situations completely around. He stepped into hopeless circumstances and planted seeds of hope. He brought healing where there was sickness and restoration where there was brokenness.

As the first Light Bearer, Jesus perfectly fulfilled His mission. And now? That same sacred mission has been passed to us.

You weren't created to blend in with darkness but to stand out and shine.

You can't be in an environment and your light not be felt. You can't be working somewhere and yet be part of the problem. You can't remain in a place for long, and yet leave no positive change behind.

The people who walk in darkness should see a great light and that light is YOU.

One story that comes to mind is from a few years ago, during my specialty training to become a primary care consultant. I was assigned to a practice that, by all appearances, had everything together. The systems were organised, patients were generally satisfied, and from a bird's-eye view, everything operated smoothly. Most people would have settled in comfortably, grateful for an "easy" year with no obvious problems to fix.

But something stirred within me. I found myself asking: *What value can I add here? What change am I meant to bring?*

This wasn't just professional curiosity, it was the mindset of someone who understands they are called to shine God's light wherever they go.

While the practice functioned well overall, one issue became increasingly apparent, the computers were significantly slower than those I had used at previous placements. What seemed like a minor inconvenience was actually affecting patient care, staff morale, and overall efficiency.

When Your Light Meets Resistance

As a doctor in training, I approached the practice management about improving the computer systems. Their response?

“This isn’t a new issue. We’ve had this problem for over two years. We’ve raised it with the integrated management board, but they told us there’s no funding to fix it. Unfortunately, it’s not something we can change.”

Their words said “impossible,” but God doesn’t recognize that word.

I wasn’t deterred. I carefully prepared emails, contacted the board, included all relevant stakeholders, and explained why addressing this issue was crucial. Initially, I received positive news that the computers would be replaced!

But then came the setback, another email arrived stating they had reconsidered due to funding constraints. They were officially closing my request with no plans to revisit it.

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” John 1:5

That evening hit me hard. I felt deeply disappointed. But in that moment of defeat, I remembered who I was in Christ. I spoke to myself: “You are the light of the world. God sent you to this place as light. I may only be here briefly, but I am here to make a positive impact. If I’m truly light here, things cannot remain the same.”

Your position may be temporary, but your impact can be permanent.

That night, I prayed earnestly, asking God for wisdom on how to proceed. When morning came, as I prepared to write a follow-up email, the Holy Spirit impressed a new strategy on my heart. I followed that divine direction and sent another message.

Days later, the impossible happened. I received confirmation that the problem would indeed be solved. Shortly after, all the computers at the practice were upgraded, bringing newfound efficiency to everyone's work. My colleagues, the senior staff, everyone was smiling at the transformation.

Although I only had a few months left at the practice, I had left a lasting impact. A problem that had seemed unsolvable for years was finally resolved, not because I was particularly special, but because I understood my identity as light.

Your Light Has Purpose

What appeared difficult changed because one person believed in their God-given identity and refused to accept darkness as the final answer.

When we truly understand who God has called us to be, we naturally begin taking action that changes our environments.

Are you facing a situation that seems unchangeable? Remember:

- You are strategically placed.
- Your temporary position doesn't mean temporary impact.
- What has been impossible for years may just be waiting for your light.

Your light isn't just about personal growth; it's about transforming the spaces you occupy. God hasn't called you to blend in, but to shine in ways that illuminate paths for others.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

Radiate: Standing Out in a Dim World

The world doesn't need more people who accept things as they are. The world needs believers who see things as they *could* be when God's light shines through them.

What situation in your life needs the light you carry? Where has God positioned you to make a difference that others have deemed impossible?

Remember: you don't shine to bring attention to yourself, you shine to reveal the goodness of God in places where hope has grown dim.

Reflection Questions:

- Where has God placed you where you can be light right now?
- What "impossible" situation might God be calling you to address?
- How might your temporary position be part of God's permanent plan?

NOTES

NOTES



Chapter 2:

God as light; You as the Light Bearer

God is Light

"This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." — 1 John 1:5

Have you ever considered the awesome power of the Sun? At 93 million miles from Earth — a distance so vast that driving non-stop at 60 mph would take you 177 years to reach it — the Sun's presence is still undeniably felt on our planet.

The farther you are from a light source, the less of its intensity you feel. Yet God's light knows no such limitations.

God as light; You as the Light bearer

Think about those scorching summer days. In the UK, temperatures have reached as high as 40.3°C. If you've visited Kuwait, where temperatures soar to 52°C, or Dubai at 45°C, or stood on a beach anywhere with the Sun beating down, you know that unmistakable intensity, that powerful heat that makes you seek shelter, that brightness that forces you to shield your eyes.

Yet all of this, all the Sun's blazing glory, pales in comparison to God's light.

Remember Saul, before he became the Apostle Paul? Scripture tells us that as he travelled at midday, **a light from heaven, brighter than the sun at its zenith, flashed around him**, stopping him in his tracks and forever changing the course of his life.

And even this divine encounter, this light so dazzling that it blinded Saul temporarily, is but a glimpse of the full radiance that emanates from God's throne. This divine light is so overwhelmingly brilliant that even the spiritual beings closest to God's throne in heaven do not gaze directly upon it (Isaiah 6:2), and no human can look upon it (1 Tim. 6:16).

When God reveals just a fraction of His glory, everything else dims in comparison.

The Bible makes this abundantly clear: **God is not just a source of light, He is light.** Pure, perfect, undiminished light in which there exists not even a shadow of darkness. He is the true source, the original light from which all other light derives its existence.

In a world that often seems engulfed in darkness, remember you serve the God who is undiluted, undiminished, and undefeatable Light.

Jesus is Light

John 1:4, while in him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind." John 1:4 NIV

When Scripture declares that Jesus is light, it is revealing the very essence of who He is and what He brings to our world.

This isn't abstract theology; it's transformation in action. When Jesus spoke to crowds, He didn't hesitate to claim this identity: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8:12 NIV

God is Light. Jesus is Light. So...what's the difference?

There isn't much of a *difference*, they're just two ways of saying the same thing. It's a glimpse into the beautiful mystery of the Trinity.

One of the ways to understand the Trinity although not perfect is by thinking about the sun. Picture this:

- The **sun itself** represents **God the Father**—the source, the beginning, the One who exists beyond space and time.
- The **light** we see from the sun represents **Jesus Christ**—the visible expression of God, the One we can see, know, and relate with.
- The **heat** we feel from the sun represents **the Holy Spirit**—the power and presence of God that moves in and around us. But this time around, the Holy spirit is beyond just an abstract heat, in us He is the very life of God.

So, God is one, but He reveals Himself in three distinct persons. Think of it like this:

God as light; You as the Light bearer

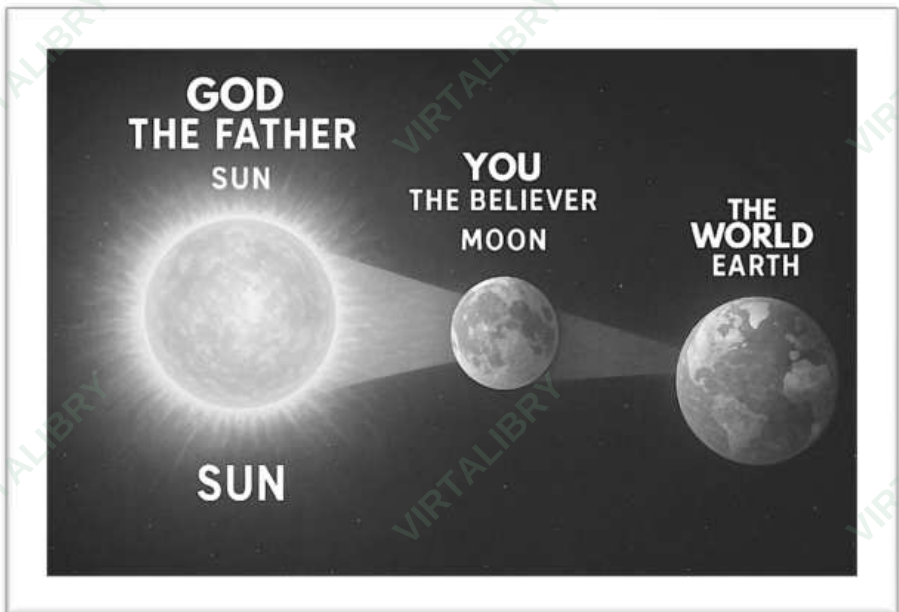
- The **Father** is the **source** of all things.
- **The Son — Jesus** is the **visible image**—God made known to creation.
- The **Holy Spirit** is the **power and presence**—God moving in and through creation.

Three expressions, one God, co-equal, co-eternal and consubstantial.

One verse of scripture which puts this into perspective is **Revelation 21:23 (NIV)** when talking about the city of heaven, it states "The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb (Jesus) is its lamp."

The life of the God head is expressed as Light. John 1:4 KJV, "In him was life; and the life was the light of men."

You — the believer — are Light



Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. ' Matthew 5:14 KJV

While we do not originate this light, we reflect God's light, and by reflecting the light we become light.

Imagine the relationship between the Sun, the Moon, and the Earth. It's a beautiful picture of how God designed us to shine.

As mentioned earlier, God the Father is like the Sun, the ultimate source of light. All life and light flow from Him, and we see that light most clearly through Jesus Christ. You, the believer, on the other hand is like the Moon. The **Moon** has no light of its own; it simply reflects the light of the Sun. Yet, even without generating its own light, the Moon can brighten the night sky and guide those walking in darkness.

And then there's the **Earth** — your world. This represents the people around you, the situations you're placed in, your daily environment.

When Jesus says, "*You are the light of the world,*" He's saying: "*You reflect Me. You represent My light wherever you are.*"

Your light doesn't come from striving, performing, or pretending. It comes from staying aligned with the true Light - God Himself. And as you reflect Him, your world begins to change. Darkness fades. Others see. Hope is stirred.

Reflect, Radiate, Don't Generate

So don't underestimate your role. You were never meant to shine by yourself, you were made to **reflect or radiate glory**, and to **light up your world** with the brilliance of God's presence. The pressure isn't on you to be the source of wisdom, healing, or transformation in others' lives. Your

calling is simply to stay connected to the Source and position yourself to reflect His light faithfully.

Light, Darkness and the Spiritual World:

Most of us know at least in theory that we are spiritual beings. But for many, this understanding stays in the head and never becomes a real, lived experience. We need to go deeper. At our core, we are spirit. We are spirits who live in physical bodies. The spiritual realm is the eternal world, the home of God, angels, demons, and every spirit, including our own.

To grasp this invisible world, it helps to have a framework, something that brings clarity to what seems mysterious. Over the years, many people have shared their encounters with the spirit world. One powerful example is the book *The Spiritual World* by Peter Tan. His insights offer a biblically sound and balanced look into what goes on beyond what our eyes can see.

Peter Tan is a missionary who committed to fasting and praying every year. During his 13th annual fast in 2006, he had a series of remarkable experiences that opened his eyes to the spiritual realm in deep, vivid ways. Out of those encounters came his book, which many Christian writers now refer to because of how closely it aligns with Scripture.

The next few sections explore some of those paraphrased insights — *Spiritual Appearance*, *Spiritual Light*, and *Spiritual Thoughts* — which are excerpts from Peter Tan's free book, available on his website. I've also included some bible references which support the statements made in the book.

Spiritual Appearance

In the spiritual world, nothing is hidden. Every spirit being - including humans - is seen for who they truly are. The condition of your heart and spiritual life is openly displayed through your appearance.

Even now, people with pure hearts carry a spiritual glow around them. It's invisible to human eyes but clearly seen in the spirit realm. On the flip side, those filled with darkness or evil have a misty cloud around them. The purer your heart, the brighter your light. The more corrupt your heart, the deeper the darkness that surrounds you.

Even clothing in the spirit world reflects a person's inner life. The fabric, colour, and texture of these garments are shaped by one's spiritual state, their wisdom, gifts, mindset, and purpose. Every region in the spirit world has its own colour tone that mirrors the lifestyle and calling of those who dwell there.

Bible references in support of this:

Matthew 5:8 (NIV) Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Daniel 12:3 (NIV) Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”

Spiritual Light

The entire spiritual realm is lit by one source, the light of Christ flowing from God's throne. This light is pure, perfect, and without shadow. It passes through every living being in that realm. Even the brightest angels shine because they reflect Christ's light.

However, not everyone can fully see this light. In the spirit world, your level of spiritual growth determines how much of Christ's light you can see. For those on lower spiritual levels, Christ's light still shines but it is

often dimmed to match what they can handle. His presence is always there, even when it is not fully seen or felt. This same light sustains life in every corner of the spiritual universe.

Christ's light does not behave like sunlight. It does not bounce off objects- it flows through them. When a spirit shines, it is because Christ's light is refracting through their being. The reason some spirits cannot perceive this light is not because it is missing, it is because their spiritual "eyes" are not yet developed. It is like someone born blind: the sun can shine all day, but they will not see it. In the same way, the spiritually blind live in darkness even though Christ's light surrounds them. Yet even in their darkness, angelic beings can still bring light to guide them.

Bible references in support of this:

John 1:4-5 (NIV) In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 8:12 (NIV) I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

Matthew 17:2 (NIV) There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.

Revelation 21:23 (NIV) The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp."

Spiritual Thoughts

In the spirit realm, thoughts are not just ideas - they are living expressions. Every thought releases light. That light reveals the strength, maturity, and uniqueness of each spirit.

In the physical world, we say that life is in the blood (see Leviticus 17:11). In the spirit world, life is in the light (see John 1:4). This light is not made of photons, it flows from God Himself, through Christ the Word.

Our thoughts on earth already carry weight in the spirit. Pure, holy thoughts shine with light. Dark, impure thoughts release spiritual darkness (see Matthew 6:22–23). And our words, being the voice of our thoughts, carry that same light or darkness into the atmosphere.

Just as doctors can study blood to know the health of a body, the light of your thoughts can reveal the condition of your inner man. Every word you speak and every thought you think reflects your spiritual health, whether it is growing in glory or covered in shadows.

Bible references in support of this:

Proverbs 23:7 (KJV) For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...

Matthew 6:22–23 (NIV) The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness...

Philippians 4:8 (NIV) Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure... think about such things.

God as light; You as the Light bearer

Step Into the Light

What light are you living by?

Is it the flicker of your own strength?

The dimness of your circumstances?

The confusion and chaos of the world?

That is not light, it is just well-packaged darkness.

And if you have been there long enough, you have seen how cruel it can be.

It drains your joy. It steals your peace. It leaves you empty.

But today, you can step into a different kind of light - the Light of God.

A light that heals.

A light that restores.

A light that never burns out.

Maybe your light has grown dim.

Maybe darkness has crept into your heart, your family, your health, your future.

But there's good news: **You don't have to stay there.**

If your relationship with God has grown cold, if you feel far from Him...

This is your moment to return to the Source.

To rekindle the flame.

To walk boldly out of the shadows and into His marvellous light.

Jesus is calling. He has been waiting. And He is ready to light up your world again.

If that is your heart today, then say this with me:

A Prayer to Start Again

Lord Jesus,

I come to You today just as I am.

I have tried to live in my own strength, but I am tired.

I repent of every sin and turn away from my old life.

Please forgive me, cleanse me, and make me new.

I believe You died and rose again for me.

Today, I open my heart and receive You as my Lord and Saviour.

I renounce every connection to darkness in my life.

Every hidden battle, be it in my health, mind, family, or purpose,
I hand over to You.

Let Your light shine into every dark corner.

From this moment on, I choose to follow You.

I walk in victory. I walk in freedom.

Thank You, Jesus, for saving me.

Amen.

You've just made the greatest decision of your life.

Welcome home. Welcome to the Light.

God as light; You as the Light bearer

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Chapter 3:

From Ordinary to Radiant: Embracing your new identity in Christ

There are important life questions we must ask ourselves and strive to answer:

1. **Who am I?** – This is the question of **identity**.
2. **Why am I on earth? Why was I conceived?** – These are questions of **purpose and destiny**.
3. **What can I do?** – This is the question of **potential**.

These three questions are powerful, and they are key to maximizing your life on earth.

"Who am I?" remains the most important question of all, because your identity determines your destiny.

Think about it this way: if I mistake a tablet PC for a wall clock, I will never understand its true purpose or tap into its full potential. I will hang it on my wall and check it for the time, completely missing the extraordinary capabilities hidden within.

Genesis 1:26-27 reveals the profound truth about who you are: **God created you in His image.** This "image" isn't about physical appearance; it's about moral likeness and spiritual personality. You are designed to reflect God's character, creativity, and compassion to a world that desperately needs to see Him.

This is the part of you the devil attacks the most, not your mission, not your resources, but your **identity**.

The Identity Attack

When Satan targeted Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, he did not attack their purpose or resources. He went straight for the most critical aspect of their lives — their identity.

"Eat this fruit... so you will be like God," he whispered (Genesis 3:5).

Do you see the deception? They were already like God, created in His very image! But Satan made them question who they truly were, and in that moment of doubt, he made them question their abilities.

The enemy uses the same tactics today, whispering:

- "Do this, so you'll be like others."
- "Dress this way so they'll accept you."
- "Everyone else is doing it, you don't want to be the odd one out."

From Ordinary to Radiant: Embracing your new identity in Christ

Before you realise it, your decisions are no longer based on conviction but on comparison. Life becomes about pleasing others rather than pleasing God.

When you live by comparison, you surrender your God-given identity for acceptance.

Look at how Satan approached Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1–10). He began with these words: “If you are the Son of God, then turn these stones into bread...”

Notice the attack on identity: “If you are...” Satan always targets who you are before he targets what you do.

If Jesus had entertained these doubts, He might have started thinking:

- "Maybe I'm not really the Son of God..."
- "Maybe I'm not that good after all..."
- "Maybe I'm not blessed or called to greatness..."
- "Maybe I'll never get relationships right..."
- "Maybe I'm just destined to struggle..."

But Jesus knew who He was and you must know who you are in Christ.

If you don't know who you are, Satan will try to make you earn your identity through performance.

"If you eat this fruit, you will become like..." "If you turn these stones into bread, you will prove that you are..."

But here is the liberating truth: you are a child of God. You already have rights and privileges. You do not need to prove your identity, you simply need to believe it and live from it.

Kingdom Citizenship

Imagine being a citizen of a prosperous nation like Great Britain. As a citizen, you are entitled to certain benefits — free healthcare through the NHS, access to public funds, and more.

Do you have to perform special acts to access these rights? No, you receive them because you are a citizen. Your citizenship is your qualification.

In the same way, as a citizen of heaven, you are entitled to all the rights of God's Kingdom, including the privilege of being a light bearer in this dark world.

Life in Christ is supernatural. You are not called to blend in, you are called to stand out. You were born to shine!

No one discovers who they are in Christ and remains ordinary. No one encounters the power of divine life and still lives a common life.

William Wilberforce (1759 - 1833) was born into privilege in Hull, England. As a young man, he lived for worldly pleasures and political ambition, securing a seat in Parliament at just 21 years old. Though nominally Christian, his faith was shallow and had little impact on his life.

Everything changed in 1785 when Wilberforce experienced what he called his “great change” a profound spiritual conversion. Through conversations with his friend Isaac Milner and reading Philip Doddridge's *Rise and Progress of Religion in the Soul*, Wilberforce truly understood what it meant to be a citizen of heaven.

This revelation transformed him completely. He wrote in his journal: “God Almighty has set before me two great objects: the suppression of the slave trade and the reformation of manners [moral values].”

Wilberforce dedicated his life to abolishing the slave trade; a seemingly impossible task that pitted him against the economic interests of the British Empire. For 20 years, he introduced anti-slavery legislation, enduring humiliating defeats, mockery, and threats.

What sustained him was his understanding of his divine citizenship. He did not need to achieve greatness through human strength; he simply needed to be faithful to his heavenly calling. Wilberforce wrote, “God has raised me up for the very purpose of effecting [the abolition of slavery].”

His persistence finally paid off in 1807 when Parliament passed the Slave Trade Act. But Wilberforce continued working until 1833, when the Slavery Abolition Act passed just days before his death, freeing all slaves throughout the British Empire.

Beyond abolition, Wilberforce championed over 60 philanthropic causes, transformed Britain’s moral climate, and demonstrated what happens when someone grasps their divine identity in Christ. He didn't merely blend into society but radically stood out, becoming what historian William Hague called **"one of the most influential figures who ever lived."**

Created to Shine

You do not overcome darkness by studying darkness. You conquer darkness by knowing how powerful light is, how big your God is, and what your role as light is.

We often become overwhelmed by the magnitude of challenges before us. For forty days and nights, the Israelites were paralysed by Goliath’s

intimidating presence (1 Samuel 17:16). Similarly, we focus on how insurmountable our obstacles seem — *How will I afford it? Do I have what it takes? Can I really go back to school at my age?*

When you spend too much time studying your giants, you lose the faith required to conquer them.

Scripture reminds us that “the people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits” (Daniel 11:32b, NKJV). It is not the people who know their problem that become strong, but those who know their God.

We do not lose battles because God has grown weaker. We lose them because we have lost sight of who we are in Him and with that, we lose faith in what we can accomplish through Him.

Do not second-guess your abilities in God. Your identity in Christ is more powerful than any obstacle you face.

Like a Star, You Need to Shine

Think about how stars function, they shine by giving out their heat and light. They do not consume; they contribute.

In the same way, you were created to shine, not by hiding your gifts, but by reaching out with them. The more you reach out, the brighter your light becomes. With every small step you take to bless someone else's life, your light grows stronger.

We shine by solving problems. We shine by helping others. That is how the light of Christ within you is revealed to the world.

When your focus becomes excessively centred on your own problems, the constant “me, me, me”, your light begins to dim. Self-centredness stifles your shine.

You were not born to remain hidden in the shadows of fear, doubt, or self-pity. You were born to illuminate the world with the life and purpose God placed inside you.

Your light was never meant to be hidden; it was designed to be a beacon that guides others to Christ.

Remember who you are. Step into your identity. And shine as you were created to do.

SHINE Steps

1. **S — Secure your identity in Scripture.** Take time each day to meditate on verses that affirm who you are in Christ. Write down Matt. 5:14, Ephesians 2:10, Psalm 139:14, and 1 Peter 2:9 on cards and place them where you'll see them daily. Let God's Word, not others' opinions, define you.
2. **H — Hold fast to your heavenly citizenship.** When doubts arise, remind yourself: "I am a child of God with full kingdom rights and privileges." Make a list of the benefits you have as a citizen of heaven and thank God for them daily.
3. **I — Identify the lies attacking your identity.** What negative thoughts about yourself do you battle? Write them down, then counter each with a truth from Scripture. For example: "I'm not good enough" vs. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).
4. **N — Nurture your God-given gifts.** What talents has God given you? How can you develop them? Commit to spending some time each day practicing or learning more about your gifts, till you gain mastery in it.

5. **E — Extend your light to others.** Choose one person each day to bless with an encouraging word, a helpful action, or a heartfelt prayer. Remember, your light grows brighter when you share it!

Reflection Questions

1. In what areas of your life have you been living based on comparison rather than conviction?
2. How has Satan's "if you are" or "if you do" deception affected your understanding of your identity?
3. What "giants" are you focusing on that might be causing you to lose faith in what God can do through you?
4. In what specific ways can you use your unique gifts to shine and solve problems for others this week?
5. What one truth about your identity in Christ do you need to embrace most right now?

Your identity isn't something you achieve, it's something you receive. Now go and live like the royal child of God that you are!

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Chapter 4:

Fuel your light:

How to grow in Faith and Influence

There is a reason the Sun does not need to introduce itself, it just shines. And in the same way, you were designed to live a life so bright that people do not need a sermon to know you carry something different. They will see it in your actions, your words, your results. That is what Jesus meant when He said:

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

(Matthew 5:16 KJV)

Notice that Jesus didn’t just say, “Shine your light.” He said, **“Let your light so shine...”**—that little word “so” is doing a lot of work. It suggests

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intensity, intentionality, and impact. In other words, there's a way to shine that grabs attention and glorifies God.

But here's the hard truth.

Not all believers are shining at the same level.

Not all lights are burning with the same intensity.

Some are glowing. Some are flickering. Others, honestly, are just sitting there, plugged in but dim, connected but not active.

Let us be real. You can be full of potential and still look powerless.

You can be saved, yet unnoticed.

You can have the light and still be dim.

Picture this: two believers walk into the same room. Both carry the same Christ within them. Both have access to the same Holy Spirit. Both claim the same salvation. Yet something remarkable happens — one person's presence fills the space with hope, joy, and an unmistakable sense of God's love, while the other barely registers a spiritual pulse. What makes the difference?

The answer is simple yet profound: the intensity of light they're reflecting

"The light we reflect as believers, we draw from Him. But we don't all reflect the same quantity or quality of light. That's why our impacts are different."

One Christian lives quietly with no noticeable difference from the world around them. Another steps into a room, and something shifts. What's the difference? **Faith that's fed. Light that's fuelled. A life that's fully surrendered.**

Once more, imagine two lamps plugged into the same power source, one is a 20-watt bulb, the other a 100-watt floodlight. Same source. Different shine.

Which one are you?

You see, **influence is a function of intensity.**

The brighter your light, the further your reach.

Your light *is* your influence.

And the more you fuel it, the more you'll shine and the more God will use you to impact your world.

So, the question isn't "*Do you have light?*" If you're in Christ, the light is in you.

The real question is:

- **"How bright are you burning?"**
- **"How far is your light reaching?"**
- **"How much of God are people seeing in you?"**

Maybe your light is flickering.

Maybe it's gone dim because life got overwhelming.

Or maybe you've been burning bright and now you're feeling weary.

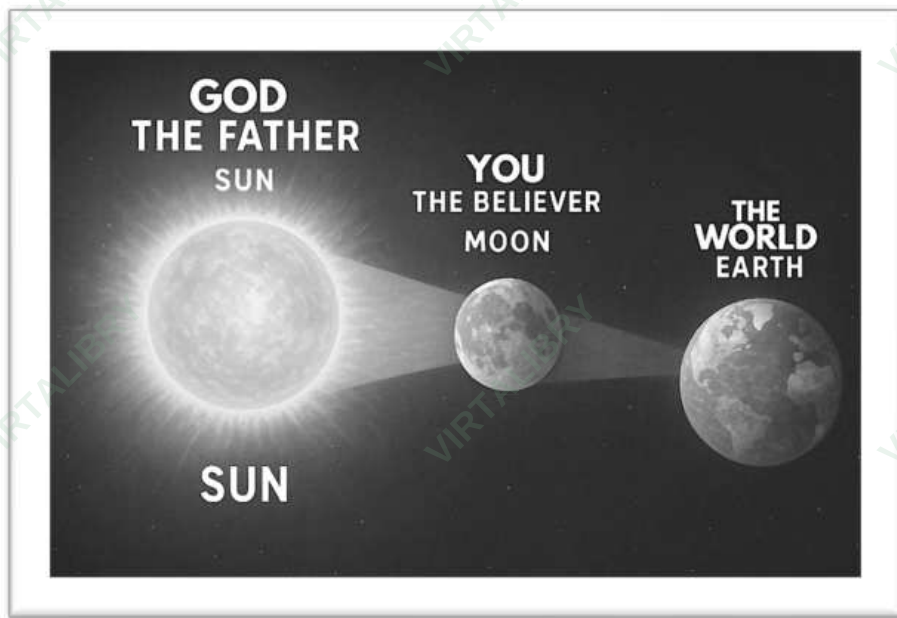
Wherever you are, this is your call to **fuel up.**

Because here is the truth:

"When your light burns brighter, your influence grows stronger. And when your influence grows stronger, your impact becomes undeniable."

Let us explore how to increase your brightness, deepen your spiritual fire, and stretch your influence because the world does not need more noise. It needs more light. And you were born to shine.

1. Spending Time with God: The Reflection Principle



Here's a simple but powerful truth: **You don't have light of your own.** Just like the moon, your shine comes from reflection.

The moon is beautiful, steady, and glowing in the night sky, but it has **no light source within itself.**

Its secret? It *obeys the reflection principle*. It stays aligned with the sun.

And so must you.

“You reflect what you're connected to.”

If you want to shine with God's light, you must stay in position to reflect Him. That happens when you **spend time with Him.**

The more time you spend with God, the more like Him you become. And the more like Him you become, the brighter you shine.

Think of Moses.

In *Exodus 34:29*, the Bible says,

"Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him."

In other words, Moses didn't even realize what had happened but **everyone else did**. Even Aaron, his ministry partner, couldn't get too close. Why? Because *God's presence left a mark on him*.

You may not notice the glow, but others will.

This is what time with God does. It changes you without you even knowing.

It softens your heart. Sharpens your spirit.

It makes your life attractive.

You do not have to announce you have been with Jesus; your light will do the talking.

Jesus modelled this too. Matthew 17 tells us how His face shone on the Mount of Transfiguration. But that glow came in the place of prayer. Every time He withdrew to commune with the Father, He returned with power. That is no coincidence.

"You can't reflect what you haven't encountered."

So, here's the point: **You cannot impact your world if you're not different from your world.**

You cannot carry light if you don't stay plugged in to the source.

This is more than Sunday morning religion.

It's about **daily devotion**—real time, real moments, real relationship.

Want to shine brighter?

SPEND TIME. SPEND TIME. SPEND TIME.

Spend time with God.

Not once a week—daily.

Not religiously—relationally.

Because *light is contagious, and God is the original fire.*

Not because it's a religious duty, but because it's the most important way to fuel the light that will set your influence ablaze.

Let your shine be the result of **presence, not performance.**

Let your glow come from **communion, not charisma.**

Remember:

"It's not just about being seen, it's about reflecting the One who sent you."

Let me tell you a personal story.

For a long time, I had carried a deep desire in my heart — to one day speak on a TEDx stage. Not for fame, but because I believed I had something to say. Something real. Something shaped by years of work, faith, learning, and life that could genuinely impact others. And I knew the TEDx platform was a globally respected place to do just that.

So, I applied.

Now, it wasn't an easy thing to do. At the time, in my city, *not a single person of African origin had ever stood on that TEDx stage in its five-year history.* And with nearly 100 people who applied that year, the odds weren't exactly in my favour. But I didn't want to rely on odds, I wanted to rely on **God.**

And it was during one of those quiet, ordinary prayer moments that God did something extraordinary.

As I spent time worshipping and praying in his presence, suddenly, the Holy Spirit dropped a phrase into my spirit:

"Stained by the Screen. That will be your TEDx topic"

The moment I heard it, I *knew*. That was the title. That was the message. That was the light I needed to carry.

I submitted the application with that exact title. And out of nearly 100 speaker applicants, **mine was chosen as one of the favourites**. But there was more.

They asked for a detailed draft of the talk - 12 minutes of compelling content, deeply thought through. Again, I didn't rush off to Google or grind ideas in my own strength. I went back to the secret place.

Because when you sit with God, you don't just gain peace, you gain perspective.

I prayed. I waited. And after that, like a fountain had been uncapped, **the words began to pour out**. For the next six hours straight, I wrote. No pauses. No blocks. Just a clear, divine download. Page after page, thought after thought, insight upon insight. When I was done, I had over five full pages of refined content, every word flowing straight from time with God.

I submitted the draft, and the feedback stunned me. The organizing panel responded with:

"Your draft is so well written and engaging, we can't offer any feedback other than well done."

I went on to speak on that TEDx stage, becoming the **first African-born speaker ever** to do so in that city.

After the talk, the response was overwhelming. Applause. Accolades. And more importantly, **it opened the door for others like me to rise and shine**.

But here's what I want you to hear:

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The theme, the title, the words, the favour, it all came from time spent with God.

I didn't earn the light, I reflected it.

So, I say it again—**spend time with God.**

Not because it's a rule, but because it's your **refuelling station.**

Your light needs fresh oil. Your influence needs a fresh spark.

If you want to shine for real, you need to sit with the Source.

You may be one quiet moment away from your next big idea.

One worship session away from your divine direction.

One secret-place prayer away from your platform.

You cannot make a difference if you're not different.

And you cannot be different if you don't spend time with the One who sets you apart.

There's a moment in Scripture that reveals something breath-taking about God's presence, one you might have missed.

In *Numbers 17:8*, God asked each tribe of Israel to bring a rod, just a plain walking stick representing their household head. Aaron brought his.

Now listen carefully: **This was not a branch freshly cut from a tree.**

It was a rod—dry, lifeless, old. **A stick.**

But after just **one night in the presence of God**, something supernatural happened.

"And it came to pass, that on the morrow... behold, the rod of Aaron... was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds." (Numbers 17:8)

One night.

One exposure to God's glory and what was dead **came alive**.

A dry stick **budded, blossomed, and bore fruit**.

Can I prophesy this into your life right now?

As you return to God's presence after now, everything lifeless in you will begin to blossom.

Dry dreams, dead confidence, dull faith, dead goals **will sprout again**.

Because this is what happens when we dwell in the secret place.

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." (Psalm 91:1)

The secret place isn't about performance or position. It's about *presence*.

It's the hidden space where no one sees you, yet heaven recognizes you.

It's where your roots grow deep before your fruit ever shows.

It's where you're shaped in silence for a life that speaks loudly.

Let me say this:

"Spending time with God is the most powerful way to come alive again."

Your strength, your direction, your protection, it's all drawn from there.

Don't get too busy that you rob yourself of the most important appointment of your day.

Relationships Run on Time

Let's make this practical:

What makes any relationship thrive? *Time*.

If you want your marriage to grow, what do you do? You spend more time with your spouse. You talk, laugh, listen, and bond.

Over time, you even start sounding alike.

The currency of a healthy relationship is time.

So, if you want more of God, **give Him more time.**

More of His presence? More time.

More of His power? More time.

More clarity, strength, joy? More time.

More peace in your home? More time.

God is a relational being. You cannot develop anything meaningful with Him if you won't devote the time to know

So, here's your reminder:

"If you want to shine on the outside, you must grow on the inside."

2. The Place of Humility and the Fear of God

Here's something that will guard your shine for a lifetime:

Never forget where your light comes from.

You are not the source; **you are the reflection.**

You don't generate the glow, you mirror it.

You are the moon, and your light comes from the Sun—**the Son of God.**

“All your light comes from God. All your life comes from God.”

The danger begins when the moon forgets it's the moon and starts acting like the sun.

That's when pride creeps in.

That's when we start taking credit for what we were only meant to carry.

Pride says, *“Look at what I've done.”*

But humility says, *“Look at what God did through me.”*

Pride says, *“Look at what I achieved.”*

But humility says, *“Look at what God's grace can do”*

Let me say it like this:

“When the moon tries to block out the sun, we don't get more light, we get an eclipse.”

You want to shine for real? Stay out of God's way.

Don't obstruct the source. Don't steal the spotlight.

The moment you make it about you, your light begins to fade.

This is why humility isn't just a nice Christian virtue, it's the pathway to reflecting all of God. When you humble yourself, you become like a perfectly positioned moon, catching every ray of His glory and reflecting it without obstruction.

Jesus gave us the model:

"The greatest among you shall be your servant." (Matthew 23:11)

He didn't come to be seen, He came to serve. And because of that, **He was exalted above every name.**

Humility isn't weakness. It's power under control.

It's the ability to shine brightly but still point upward.

It's the heart posture that says, *"What do I have that I didn't receive?" (1 Corinthians 4:7)*

And if we want to keep burning bright, **we must restore the fear of the Lord.**

Not fear as in dread, but **deep reverence.** Awe. Honour. A lifestyle that says, *"God, You are holy. You are higher. You are the reason I shine."*

"Humility and reverence are the oil that keep your light from burning out."

Acknowledge Him in everything.

Celebrate Him in every victory.

Don't just use His name in prayer; **honour Him in your posture.**

Because here's the truth:

"God won't compete with your ego. The more of Him you want, the less of you must remain."

Don't create an eclipse in your own life. Stay humble, stay grateful, and watch your light burn brighter than ever before.

3. Catching Light Through God's Word: The Power of Divine Illumination

There's a third way to fuel your light that Satan absolutely dreads, and once you understand why, you'll never approach your Bible the same way again.

"The entrance of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple"

(Psalm 119:130).

When God's Word comes in, it brings light. Not just information. Not just good advice. Not just moral guidance. Light, the kind of supernatural illumination that transforms minds, awakens faith, and changes everything.

Here's what the enemy of your soul knows that many believers don't: Satan isn't afraid that you can quote Scripture. He knows the Bible too; probably better than most of us. What terrifies him is the light that comes when God's Word ignites in your spirit. **This is the light Satan fears most, because one word from God can completely reshape your circumstances.**

"I See!" — When Scripture Becomes Revelation

Have you ever been reading your Bible, and suddenly, **you pause... and whisper, "I see"?**

That moment is golden.

What just happened is this: **you didn't just read words, you caught light.**

Reading gives you knowledge.

Meditation gives you *sight*.

"Revelation is when the Word moves from your eyes to your spirit."

This is the light Satan fears the most, because it opens your eyes to who you really are in Christ.

Let's break it down with a simple example:

No matter how perfect your eyes are, if you're in total darkness, you *still can't see*.

Why? Because seeing depends on **light**, not just vision.

Here's what happens physically: Light hits an object → bounces off → enters your eye → is bent and focused onto your retina → and finally, your brain interprets what you're seeing.

The same principle works in the spiritual realm. When you read and study God's Word, you're not just processing letters on a page. You're positioning yourself to receive divine light, illumination that reveals hidden treasures in Scripture and awakens you to realities you have in God.

And here's the beautiful part: **this light increases through meditation.**

As you meditate on God's Word, letting it soak deep into your soul, the light grows brighter. Suddenly you can see things you couldn't see before. The words become real. Your faith awakens. Promises that seemed too good to be true start feeling like your personal inheritance.

Picture this: You're reading 1 Corinthians 6:19 like you have a hundred times before: *"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own."*

But this time, light hits. **"Wait a minute... I'm a temple! I'm a hosting site of God's Spirit! Demons aren't allowed to mess my life up because I carry God Himself!"**

Or you stumble across 2 Corinthians 5:20: *"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us."* Suddenly it's

not just a nice verse, you see yourself as Heaven's official representative on earth.

Maybe it's Matthew 6:26 that comes alive: *"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"* And anxiety loses its grip because you finally see how much you matter to God.

Or Romans 8:31 explodes in your spirit: *"If God is for us, who can be against us?"* And suddenly every giant looks conquerable.

This is why Satan will do everything to prevent you from studying and meditating on God's Word. He'll send distractions, create busyness, whisper doubts, anything to keep you from that open Bible. Because he knows that one illuminated word from God can shatter the lies, he's spent years building in your mind.

The more time you expose yourself to the Word, the more it emits light to you.

So next time you're reading Scripture and something quickens in your spirit, pause and say to yourself: **"I see."** Don't rush past those moments, they're divine appointments where Heaven downloads light into your soul.

God's Word is Both Mirror and Light

Without light, even the best mirror is useless.

You can't see your beauty in the dark.

But with light, you begin to notice the details—your strength, your uniqueness, your divine identity.

"God's Word is both a mirror and a lamp, revealing who you are and where to go."

Let the Word light up your inner world.

Let it reflect your real worth.

Let it break lies and rebuild truth.

So today, slow down.

Open your Bible.

And when a verse hits your heart, don't rush past it. Pause and say out loud:

"I see."

Because in that moment, you're not just reading Scripture, you're becoming radiant.

4. Keep Your Eye Single – The Power of Focused vision

Jesus said something deeply spiritual and deeply practical:

"The light of the body is the eye: therefore, when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness."

(Luke 11:34, KJV)

In other words, your spiritual clarity is determined by your focus.

Where your eyes go, your life follows.

You can't be looking everywhere and expect to shine clearly. You can't be divided in your loyalty and expect full light.

Jesus also said in *Matthew 6:22–23*,

"If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light."

And just two verses earlier, He said:

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21)

What you treasure, you focus on.

What you focus on, you become full of.

Let me say it plainly:

“If your attention is divided, your light will be diluted.”

You cannot serve God and still serve the idols of self, success, lust, fame, or pride.

If you try to shine in too many directions, **your light becomes dim and scattered.**

What captures your attention throughout the day? What do you scroll through on your phone? What do you binge-watch? What dreams occupy your thoughts? What fears dominate your conversations? Whatever consistently has your focus is shaping your spiritual vision and determining how much light flows through your life.

The enemy knows this principle well. He doesn't necessarily need to make you do something overtly sinful to dim your light. He just needs to divide your attention

Focus Determines Brightness

Think of a flashlight. When its beam is focused, it cuts through the dark like a sword. But when diffused, it barely lights up a room.

Your spiritual life is no different.

“A single eye produces a strong shine. A divided heart produces shadows.”

This is why your eyes matter.

Be careful what you *look at*.

Be careful what you *spend your time on*

Be careful where you *set your gaze* because it shapes the atmosphere of your entire life.

What Are You Really Aiming At?

This is where we pause and ask hard, honest questions:

- What am I truly focused on?
- Am I trying to balance God and the world?
- Is my heart fully yielded or subtly distracted?

You cannot pursue light and still flirt with darkness.

You cannot reflect God while constantly glancing at Egypt.

You must make a choice.

“To shine with full brightness, you must see with full focus.”

So, guard your eye.

Keep it single; focused on Christ, fixed on purpose, free from distractions.

Because once your vision is clear, **your whole body — your whole life — will be full of light.**

5. Walk in Love: The Non-Negotiable Path to Light

Here's a truth that will either liberate your light or explain why it's been mysteriously dim despite all your spiritual efforts: **Walking in love is equal to walking in the light.**

Let me show you what John, the beloved disciple, discovered about this unbreakable connection:

"Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them" (1 John 2:9-11NIV).

Read that again slowly. John isn't talking about moral suggestions or nice-to-have qualities. He's revealing a spiritual law as fixed as gravity:

You cannot walk in light while harbouring hatred in your heart.

Here's why this matters so much: *"God is love. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love"* (1 John 4:8). Since God is the Source of all light, and God is love, then love becomes the pathway through which His light flows.

When you choose love, you choose light. When you reject love, you reject light, even if you're doing everything else "right."

This is deep.

You can pray every morning.

You can quote 100 scriptures.

You can attend every church service.

But if you don't walk in love, **you're still in the dark.**

"Love is not just an emotion; it's a spiritual location."

When you love, you're in the light.

When you hate, resent, envy, or slander—you step into darkness, no matter how bright you think you are.

And here's the danger: *"He that hateth his brother... walketh in darkness... and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes."* (1 John 2:11)

That means bitterness doesn't just affect your emotions—it blinds your spiritual vision.

No wonder many believers stumble even when they know the Word. **They're trying to walk in light while holding hands with hate.**

God Is Love. To Know Him, You Must Love.

This is one of the highest tests of spiritual maturity, not how loud you preach or how long you fast, but how well you love.

- Love when it's hard.
- Love when you've been wronged.
- Love when no one is watching.

"You're never more like God than when you walk in love."

Don't Let the Devil Trap You

One of the enemy's sneakiest strategies is this:

He knows he can't stop you from praying or reading your Bible.

So, what does he do?

He **plants offense, envy, jealousy, and bitterness** into your heart because he knows:

"You can't carry light in a heart that's heavy with hate."

Suddenly, you're spiritually dry.

Things start going wrong. Your joy fades. Your peace breaks.

Why? You're exposed. You've stepped out of the covering of love.

But when you walk in love, Scripture says:

"...there is none occasion of stumbling in him." (1 John 2:10)

Love becomes your protection. Love lights your path. Love makes your spirit bright.

Walk in love, not in jealousy. That promotion your co-worker got? That blessing your friend received? That success your sibling is experiencing? When jealousy creeps in, it doesn't just hurt your relationships, it literally dims your spiritual light.

Walk in love, not in envy or bitterness. That person who hurt you, betrayed you, or treated you unfairly? I know it's hard. I know it's painful. But when you nurse that bitterness, when you replay those wounds, when you fantasize about revenge, you're not just staying stuck emotionally, you're walking in spiritual darkness.

Walk in love, not in unforgiveness. That family member who disappointed you, that friend who let you down, that leader who failed you? Every day you choose to hold onto that offense is another day you choose to walk in diminished light.

So, here's the call:

Walk in love — walk in light.

They're not two separate journeys, they're the same path with two names.

Pause and Reflect: Who Do You Need to Forgive?

Take a moment right here—yes, right now and search within.

Is there someone who hurt you?

Someone you've quietly resented?

A name that still makes your heart feel heavy?

Or maybe... you're the one who did the hurting.

And you've pushed it aside, but the Holy Spirit is gently bringing it back to your heart.

You cannot shine freely if your heart is chained to offense.

Forgiveness doesn't mean what they did was okay.

It means *you're okay to release it and move forward in light.*

Here's the call:

- Forgive them.
- Ask for forgiveness if you need to.
- Release the weight.

Say this out loud if you're ready:

"Lord Jesus, I let go. I forgive those who hurt me. I release them from my heart. And where I've been wrong, give me the grace to make it right. Fill me with Your love—and help me walk in the light again."

Don't wait for the perfect moment.

This is the moment.

"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamour and slander be put away from you... and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another; as God in Christ forgave you."

(Ephesians 4:31–32ESV)

6. Start Shining: The multiplication principle of light

Now here comes the part that separates those who talk about shining from those who actually become blazing lights in their generation. It's time to stop preparing to shine and **start shining**.

There's a powerful Kingdom principle that governs how God distributes spiritual light, and understanding it will revolutionize how you approach your faith. Jesus revealed this principle in the parable of the talents, and it applies directly to the light you carry:

"For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them"
(Matthew 25:29).

Here's the divine equation: The servant who accomplishes more will get more.

This isn't about earning God's love or working your way to Heaven, that's already settled by grace. This is about how God entrusts His light to those who actually use what they've been given. **More light will be made available to the one who takes action with the light they already have.**

Think about it this way: If you had two flashlights and needed to send someone into a dark cave on a rescue mission, would you give the stronger flashlight to the person who keeps their light hidden under a blanket, or to the person who's already using their light to help others find their way?

God operates on the same principle. He looks for faithful light-bearers who are already shining with what they have, and then He amplifies their glow.

I've watched this principle play out countless times in ministry. Two believers start with seemingly equal spiritual gifts and opportunities. One

sits in church taking notes, accumulating knowledge, preparing to serve "someday when they're ready." The other steps out with whatever light they have, maybe it's just encouraging one person, serving in one small area, or sharing their testimony with one neighbour.

Guess which one ends up carrying more spiritual authority and influence?

The one who started shining immediately with whatever light they had.

Here's what happens when you start using your light instead of hoarding it: God sees your faithfulness in small things and entrusts you with greater things. Your light doesn't just stay the same, it multiplies. Your influence doesn't plateau; it expands. Your impact doesn't remain limited, it grows exponentially.

You don't need permission to start shining. You don't need a platform to start influencing. You don't need a title to start impacting lives.

Start where you are. Shine with what you have. Use the light that's already in you to brighten someone else's darkness. Encourage that discouraged friend. Serve in that small ministry. Share hope with that struggling co-worker. Pray for that difficult neighbour.

Every time you let your light shine; you create capacity for more light.

But here's the warning that comes with this principle: **"Use it or lose it" applies to spiritual light too.** The believer who keeps their light hidden, who always plans to serve tomorrow, who constantly prepares but never participates, they don't just stay the same. Jesus said even what they have will be taken away.

This isn't God being harsh; it's simply how spiritual light works. Light that isn't used grows dim. Gifts that aren't exercised atrophy. Influence that isn't applied diminishes.

The brightest Christians you know didn't start that way, they became that way by consistently using whatever light they had.

Billy Graham – From a Farm Boy to a Global Light

Let me share a story that brings this truth to life.

Billy Graham wasn't born into influence.

He grew up on a quiet dairy farm in North Carolina. A shy teenager. Not the most outspoken. Not the most eloquent.

But at age 16, something happened, he gave his life to Christ at a local revival. That was the first flicker of light.

He didn't feel particularly gifted. He didn't have a platform.

But he started where he was. He said yes to small meetings, little churches, and youth gatherings.

He preached with what he had; faith, a willing heart, and a message about Jesus.

"He that is faithful in little will be faithful in much." (Luke 16:10)

And here's what happened: **the more he shone, the more his light grew.**

His big break came in 1949 at a tent crusade in Los Angeles. It was supposed to last 3 weeks...

But because the crowds kept growing, it extended to **8 weeks**, reaching thousands.

From that moment, his ministry caught fire.

Over his lifetime, Billy Graham preached to **over 215 million people in 185 countries.**

He became a spiritual voice to **12 U.S. presidents**, and his messages were broadcast in over **50 languages**.

All of that started because one man decided to *shine where he was*.

He didn't wait for perfection.

He didn't wait to be famous.

He just said **"yes"** and kept saying yes.

"Light multiplies when you move with it."

Billy once said, *"I am just a spectator watching what God is doing."*

He knew it wasn't about him—it was about surrender.

And that's your invitation too.

You don't have to be the brightest, just be faithful.

You don't have to reach the world in one day, just reach someone today.

Because when you shine what you have, God adds more.

You already know how to encourage someone? Do it.

You have insight into a topic? Teach it.

You've been through something that others can learn from? Share it.

Stop hiding your light and expecting it to grow.

"Light doesn't increase in storage. It grows in use."

Don't Wait to Feel Ready — Just Start

If you're waiting for the perfect moment, you'll wait forever.

God's system is simple:

- **Obedience unlocks clarity.**

- **Action invites increase.**
- **Motion produces more revelation.**

The more you walk, the more the path lights up.

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)

But notice, **it’s not a floodlight**. It’s a lamp.

You only see the next step *as you take it*.

You Were Never Meant to Stay Dim

This is your call to stop dimming your light with doubt, fear, and perfectionism.

God placed something in you *and Heaven expects a return*.

The world needs your voice, your gifts, your insight, your story.

“The longer you delay, the dimmer you become.

But the moment you shine, Heaven turns up the wattage.”

You don’t have to be perfect to start. You just have to **start**.

So, Here’s the Push:

- Write that blog.
- Speak up in that room.
- Mentor that person.
- Start that small group.
- Share that testimony.
- Launch that idea.

I Shine: How to Impact Your World God's Way

You're not doing it alone, **you carry the Light of the world inside you.**

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

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Chapter 5:

Lights in the City:

Making impact in school, work, and community

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned." — *Isaiah* 9:2

There's a moment in every believer's journey when the lights come on—not just spiritually, but practically. It's when you realise that all this talk

about being the light of the world isn't just beautiful church language. It's your actual job description.

When Jesus walked the earth, that ancient prophecy from Isaiah came alive. The people who had stumbled around in spiritual darkness suddenly had hope. Light had dawned. Miracles happened. Lives changed. Communities transformed.

But here's what will absolutely blow your mind: **When Jesus left, He didn't leave the world in darkness again. He looked at ordinary people like you and me and said, "YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD."**

Oh my! what a privilege! What an incredible honour to be given the responsibility of being the light of your world. To light up your corner of creation. To change the course of your community. **What a privilege.**

The people who now dwell in darkness around you—your classmates, your coworkers, your neighbours—should be excited because you're here. **Your presence should make it obvious that light has arrived and darkness has to give way.**

Think Like an Asset, Not a Liability

Here's where many believers get it all wrong. Instead of stepping into their role as light-bearers, they shrink back. They blend in. They apologise for their faith. They act like they're a burden instead of a blessing.

Stop that. Right now.

You are the Light of the world, an asset of inestimable value.

Think about it: the entire world depends on the presence of sunlight. The sun's energy drives climate, weather, and life on Earth. Without it, everything dies.

Now imagine this: **You are to your world what the sun is to the planet.**

"You are not a burden; you are a blessing. You are not a liability; you are an asset."

An asset *adds* value wherever it is placed. So ask yourself daily:

- **What can I give here?**
- **What can I improve?**
- **How can I leave this place better than I found it?**

When you walk into that classroom, that office, that community meeting, you need to shift your entire mindset. When you clock into work, be the one whose integrity is unshakable. When you join a community project, be the one who rolls up their sleeves and leads by example.

You arrive at any place looking for what to add, not what to take. You're driven by value addition.

This isn't arrogance, it's identity. This isn't pride, it's purpose. When you truly understand that you carry the light of Christ within you, you stop asking, "What can I get from this place?" and start asking, "What can I give to this place?"

Refuse to Hide Your Light

***'Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.'** Matthew 5:14 KJV*

In this verse, Jesus compares you to a **city on a hill**—impossible to ignore, impossible to hide. Yet too many believers live as if they're trying to blend in with the shadows.

A lamp hidden under a basket doesn't help anyone.

A believer who refuses to shine leaves their school, workplace, or neighbourhood darker than it needs to be.

“Your light is not for decoration; it’s for direction.”

Your life should be a visible example of God’s goodness—seen in your actions, not just your words. That’s why Jesus said, *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”* Matt. 5:16

Your attitude in a stressful meeting.

Your kindness when others are cold.

Your refusal to join the gossip.

Your excellence in every task, these are beams of light in a dark world.

You're the Photo of Jesus to the World

Notice, Jesus didn't say you might become the light someday when you get more spiritual. He didn't say you're the light only on Sundays. He said **you ARE the light of the world**. Present tense. Right now. Today.

Here's something fascinating: The Greek word for "light" is "Phos", where we get our word "photograph." **So when Jesus says you're the light of the world, it's like saying you're the photograph of Jesus to the world.** You're His image being developed in the dark room of this broken world.

You can't hide a city on a hill. **Your life can't be hidden.** You're a city on a hill, don't let anyone or any system keep you living in the valley.

You don't light a candle just to hide it under a basket. Yet how many Christians live exactly like this? "I'm a Christian, but... well, that's about it." No difference. No impact. No change. No advantage. No progress. No shift.

No! Light comes up, and everywhere becomes bright. When you're in that office, there's a difference. When you're at work, transformation happens. When you're in school, hope rises. **They see your good works, not just your talks, but your attitude and lifestyle.**

General William Booth, for example, the founder of The Salvation Army. He didn't wait until he felt "holy enough" or had the perfect credentials before shining. At just fifteen, he grabbed his Bible and started preaching in the open streets of Nottingham. His "church" was the alleyway, his pulpit the curb, and his congregation the drunk, the homeless, and the hopeless.

London in the mid-1800s was full of dark, dangerous corners, places polite society preferred to ignore. Booth walked straight into them. He brought food to the hungry, shelter to the homeless, and the gospel to those who had been told they were beyond God's reach. And here's the thing, his light couldn't be hidden. Soon, others began to join him. What started as a one-man mission became a global movement. Today, The Salvation Army serves in over 130 countries.

Booth understood what Jesus meant: "You are the light of the world." Not someday—now. And he lived like a city on a hill, visible for all to see. His life was a living photograph of Jesus, developed in the darkroom of a broken world until the image of Christ shone clearly for all to behold.

The World is Crying for Your Light

Here's a sobering truth that should light a fire under every believer: **Darkness thrives when God's children fail to be the light.**

What does it mean to be the light of the world? It means to be unique. To be the change bringer. To be the innovation wherever you go. **You are the light of this world, not the light of heaven, because heaven doesn't need your light.** If you don't shine now, when will you shine?

The world is full of evil thoughts, negative systems, and dark influences. People are desperately seeking a beacon of hope. **Trust me, you need to shine.**

But I know what you're thinking. Maybe you're looking at your circumstances and saying, "Lord, how do You tell me to step out and shine when all I see is darkness?"

Remember what Jesus told Martha when she was worried about the smell of Lazarus's tomb? "If you believe, you will see the glory of God."

Remember what He told Moses when he was crying out about the impossible situation? "Take out your rod." Remember what He told Abraham when He called him to leave everything familiar? Abraham didn't say, "Show me the land first."

Step out of that boat, that comfort zone. As you move, you will meet new resources and encounter new territories.

The promised land won't come to you. You have to go to it. Opportunities to shine rarely come wrapped in comfort; they come disguised as challenges.

Maybe for you, shining means starting that campus Bible study.

Maybe it's speaking up for the truth at work when everyone else stays silent.

Maybe it's mentoring a struggling teenager in your community.

Don't wait until you "feel ready." The moment you start shining, God releases more light.

Shine at Any Cost

Let me be honest with you: **Shining isn't always easy. It can be costly, but the rewards are great.**

Jesus came on a ground-breaking mission to earth as the first Light-bearer, and He was stretched to accomplish it. He spent forty days in the wilderness. He prayed all night. He said, "How I am constrained until it is accomplished!" Luke 12:50

But here's your encouragement: *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it"* (John 1:5). **The light you have cannot be extinguished if you choose to shine.**

The believer is only left with two choices: We can either be part of the darkness by living like the world, or we can be different and shine as light.

The world is desperate. Evil thoughts, corrupt systems, and hopelessness are spreading fast. People are searching for a beacon of hope, stability, and truth. That beacon... is you. **I would rather aim for the stars and not hit them than not aim at all. I would rather try and fail than not try at all.**

A Glimpse in the Aisle: When a Logo Became a Wake-Up Call

It was sometime in 2023 and I was out shopping at a local fashion store. I decided to wander through the children's section — a place filled with bright colours and innocent joy. But as I looked closer, a pattern caught my eye. There it was again — a logo, appearing over and over on clothes, bags, and shoes.

At first, it seemed harmless, even hopeful. A few years earlier, that logo had been a symbol of resilience during the darkest days of the COVID pandemic. Hospitals had displayed it as a sign of hope — a promise that the light would return after the storm.

But now, nearly two years since the pandemic's end, the same logo wasn't just a symbol of hope anymore. It was everywhere, embedded deeply in children's fashion, normalised as part of everyday life.

I felt a chill run down my spine. This wasn't just a logo. This was a movement, a subtle but powerful push to reshape the way our children see the world.

You and I both know the truth of God's word that while we are called to love all people, certain lifestyles conflict with the faith we hold dear. And here was the world trying to sneak these ideas in, unnoticed, wrapped in the innocent guise of a colourful emblem.

I felt a heavy sadness. I prayed fervently, asking God to raise a voice of truth, to expose and end this agenda. But strangely, the more I prayed, the more the logo spread, appearing on more items and in more stores.

It was as if the darkness was advancing, but God was preparing me for something greater.

Before the year ended, the Holy Spirit spoke gently but firmly into my heart. He told me to start a fashion brand.

I hesitated. I pushed the thought aside. Who was I to start a brand in a world so loud with opposing voices?

A year passed. That whisper became a nudge. Then a push. Then a clear call.

God wasn't just calling me to pray against the darkness; He was calling me to **shine** in the darkness.

I had to create something different. Outfits that quietly spoke truth. Garments that could start conversations about Jesus without shouting. Clothing that was bold yet subtle, modern yet rooted in faith.

That's how **MASIN Fashion** (www.masinfashion.com) was born — *Made As Salt to Impact Nations.*

Our goal was simple but powerful: to wear the light, to wear hope, and to invite conversations about God in everyday spaces.

The response was overwhelming. People were hungry for this, Christians who wanted to stand firm, young and old who wanted to wear their faith with pride.

And I felt peace, the deep peace that comes when you step into your God-given purpose.

Because sometimes, God doesn't immediately remove the darkness. Sometimes, He raises you — yes, you — as a light.

And when you choose to shine, no matter how small your beginning, you become the beacon the world desperately needs.

If you choose to shine, you separate yourself from darkness, but not just that, you separate yourself from the shadows.

These shadows are the memories of the past. They could be past traumatic experiences, betrayals, hurt and pain. The only way to separate yourself from these shadows, is to make a decision to shine.

So what will it be? Will you hide your light under the basket of comfort, conformity, and compromise? Or will you take your place as the light of your world, illuminating your school, workplace, and community with the unstoppable radiance of Christ?

The world is waiting. Your moment is now. It's time to shine.

Practical Ways to Shine in Your Space

In School:

- **Stand for integrity in academics.** Submit your own work honestly, avoid shortcuts, and be a role model for fairness.
- **Speak life into your classmates.** Encourage those struggling, celebrate others' successes, and build a positive atmosphere.
- **Offer help instead of criticism.** When someone makes a mistake, gently guide them rather than judging.
- **Be inclusive.** Reach out to those who feel left out or lonely, invite them to join study groups or social activities.
- **Lead by example in attitude and behaviour.** Show kindness, respect teachers, and maintain a calm spirit during stress.
- **Use your talents for good.** Participate in clubs, arts, or sports as a way to inspire and uplift others.

At Work:

- **Deliver excellence in every task, big or small.** Let your work reflect God's standard of quality.
- **Refuse to compromise your values, even when it's difficult.** Be honest in dealings and transparent in communication.
- **Encourage rather than complain.** Compliments and support build team spirit; grumbling breeds negativity.
- **Be the peacemaker.** Help resolve conflicts calmly and fairly; don't fuel division.
- **Mentor or support new colleagues.** Share knowledge, offer advice, and help others find their footing.

In the Community:

- **Volunteer your time and skills.** Whether at a local shelter, youth group, or neighbourhood cleanup, show up and serve.
- **Mentor young people or peers.** Invest in others by sharing wisdom, guidance, and encouragement.
- **Organise or participate in positive initiatives.** Lead or join community projects that promote unity, education, or welfare.
- **Be a neighbour who cares.** Check in on those living alone or in need; small acts of kindness make a big difference.
- **Pray for your city's leaders, schools, and safety.** Spiritual covering is a powerful force for good.
- **Speak up for justice and kindness.** Advocate for fairness and compassion in local issues or conversations.

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Chapter 6: When the Light Flickers: Handling Setbacks and Doubt

"We are hard pressed on every side but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."— 2 Cor 4:8-9

Even the brightest stars sometimes seem dim when clouds pass over. As much as you are called to shine, there will be seasons when doubt creeps in, setbacks shake your confidence, and the path forward feels unclear.

This chapter is for those moments, when your light feels weak, when your faith wavers, when you wonder if the impact you dream of is really possible.

The truth is that setbacks and doubt are not signs that you're failing or that God has forgotten you. They are part of the journey of shining in a dark world.

Maybe you picked up this book because your light was burning bright, and you wanted to shine even brighter. But somewhere between Chapter 1 and now, something happened. A relationship fell apart. A dream died. A prayer went unanswered. Financial pressure mounted. Health concerns arose. And that brilliant light you were so excited about? It's flickering.

Here's what I want you to know: **a flickering light is still a light.**

You haven't lost your calling because you're going through a tough season. You haven't forfeited your purpose because you're battling doubt. You haven't disqualified yourself from impacting your world because right now, your world feels like it's falling apart.

Sometimes the most powerful lights are the ones that refuse to go out even when everything around them tries to snuff them out.

When Even Light-Bearers Walk Through Dark Valleys

If you've been following Jesus for any length of time, you've probably heard some voices and the always-positive crowd who make it sound like true believers never struggle. They paint a picture where real Christianity means a smooth ride without setbacks, perpetual joy, and problems that disappear the moment you pray.

That's not the Gospel. That's not real life. And that's definitely not what the Bible teaches.

David, the man after God's own heart, wrote these words: *"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me"* (Psalm 23:4). Notice he didn't say "if" he walked through dark valleys. He said *"even though"*—as in, this is part of the journey.

Paul, the apostle who turned the world upside down for Christ, was honest about his struggles: *"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair."* He didn't pretend everything was perfect. He acknowledged the pressure, the confusion, the difficulty, but he also declared that none of it could destroy what God had placed within him.

Even Jesus, the Light of the World Himself, experienced moments when His light seemed to flicker. In the Garden of Gethsemane, He sweat drops like blood. On the cross, He cried out, *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"* If the Son of God experienced dark moments, what makes us think we're exempt?

The Difference Between Flickering and Going Out

Here's what separates those who shine again from those who give up entirely: they understand the difference between a light that's flickering and a light that's gone out.

A flickering light is still producing illumination. It may not be steady, it may not be bright, but it's still cutting through the darkness. The problem isn't that your light has failed, the problem is that you're comparing your flickering light to someone else's seemingly steady glow.

Think about a candle in a windstorm. The flame dances wildly, bends low, seems like it might disappear any second, but as long as there's still a spark, there's still light. Your faith might be bending under pressure right now, but if you're still here, still seeking, still hoping that God hasn't forgotten you, then your light is still burning.

The enemy wants you to believe that anything less than perfect radiance means you've failed. He whispers, *"Look at you—you used to be so strong. You used to have such faith. Now look how weak you are."* Don't listen to those lies.

Strength isn't measured by the absence of struggle, it's measured by the presence of hope in the middle of struggle.

Your Flicker is Someone Else's Beacon

Here's something beautiful that might surprise you: the light you think is barely flickering might be the brightest beacon someone else has ever seen.

While you're focused on how dim your light feels, someone who's been walking in complete darkness sees your flicker as blazing hope. The faith you think is weak might be the strongest example of perseverance they've ever witnessed. The joy you think is insufficient might be exactly the encouragement they need to take one more step.

Don't despise the day of small flames.

You don't have to wait until your light is blazing bright again to make a difference. You don't have to postpone your purpose until your faith feels unshakeable. Sometimes the most powerful ministry happens when we let people see that even light-bearers go through dark seasons and that God's grace is sufficient even when our strength is not.

When the Light Flickers – The Wilderness School of Faith

Have you ever noticed how light sometimes flickers before it shines steadily? That flicker doesn't mean the light is gone, it means it's finding stability. In the same way, your life may go through flickering seasons,

periods where things seem uncertain, delayed, or even dark. These are your wilderness days.

The wilderness is not a punishment; it is a classroom. I call it **“The Wilderness School of Faith.”** This is the not-so-pleasant part of your story that God doesn’t always tell you about at the beginning. He shows you the dream, the throne, the promise, but He often leaves out the pruning process that comes before the glory. Why? Because if you saw it all, you might be too afraid to step forward.

Think about it:

- Joseph was told he would be great, yet God didn’t tell him about the pit, slavery, or prison.
- Daniel was destined for influence in Babylon, but God didn’t tell him about the lion’s den.
- David was anointed king, yet he spent years running from Saul, homeless, hunted, and hiding from the very throne he was meant to inherit.

Jesus said: *“Every branch in me that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit”* (John 15:2). That’s the wilderness - God’s pruning room. It feels like a disadvantage, but it actually hooks you into **unmerited favour**.

Every wilderness experience is a divine plot twist preparing you for a better ending.

This pruning is what some people call *“the detour,”* but in God’s eyes, it is *the training ground*. It is where your faith is tested, where your heart is refined, and where your character is shaped.

The Silence of God

The wilderness is often the place where it seems like God is silent. Even Jesus experienced this. On the cross, He cried: *"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"* (Matthew 27:46). Yet in that silence, He chose trust: *"Into Your hands I commit my spirit."*

Sometimes, God allows silence so that you stop asking, *"How do I feel?"* and start asking, *"God, what do You want in this situation?"*

The children of Israel had manna every day, but they still longed for Egypt because there were no onions in the wilderness. They failed to see that the manna was proof of God's presence, even in delay.

Question: Can you still trust God when the only thing on your plate is manna?

Tested Before Trusted

Here is a principle of destiny: **God doesn't trust what He hasn't tested.**

- *"And God tested Abraham..."* (Genesis 22:1).
- Jesus was led into the wilderness for forty days to be tested by the devil (Matthew 4:1).

When you pass the wilderness test, you graduate into a new season of authority. That's why after Jesus passed His test, the bible declared: *his fame spread everywhere Luke 4:14*. Essentially, His visibility and impact increased.

Exams in school promote you to the next class. Exams in life promote you to destiny.

Why Does God Allow It?

What if I told you that some of the most profound spiritual growth happens not when your light is blazing bright, but when it's barely hanging on? What if the seasons when your faith feels fragile are actually the seasons when your faith becomes most authentic?

Sometimes God allows our light to flicker not to destroy our influence, but to deepen our character.

When everything is going well, it's easy to shine. When prayers are answered quickly, when doors open smoothly, when life flows according to plan, of course, our light burns bright. But when we choose to trust God in the dark, when we worship Him through tears, when we keep believing even when we can't see the way forward, that's when our light becomes most like His.

The light that has been tested in darkness burns with a different quality than the light that has only known sunshine.

This doesn't mean God causes our pain, but He certainly sometimes allows it. He takes the very circumstances that threaten to extinguish our light and transforms them into fuel for a flame that burns more authentically, more compassionately, and more powerfully than ever before.

You may ask: *"Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?"* The answer is simple: because tests are necessary for promotion. Just like in school, there are no shortcuts. If you fail, you don't get expelled, you repeat the class until you pass.

Israel wandered in circles for 40 years because they kept failing the same test, complaining, murmuring, rebelling. What should have taken 40 days stretched into decades.

If you don't learn the lesson, the wilderness becomes your home.

Patience in the Process

God told us clearly: *"The one who believes will not be in haste"* (Isaiah 28:16b ESV). Patience is the mark of those who trust God.

David waited 14 years between his anointing and his coronation. Jesus lived in obscurity from age 12 to 30 before His public ministry. Joseph endured years in Potiphar's house and prison before standing in Pharaoh's palace.

Your waiting season is not wasted, it is **forming your moral stamina**. It is teaching you faithfulness, integrity, and resilience. Can your manager trust you? Can your director rely on you? If yes, then you are passing the test.

Take Joseph, the dreamer. His story in Genesis 37–50 reads like a rollercoaster of hope, betrayal, delay, and eventual triumph. As a young man, Joseph carried a vision from God, dreams that painted him as a leader destined for greatness. But before the crown came the pit. His own brothers, jealous of his radiance, threw him into a hole and sold him into slavery. Imagine that your own family deciding your destiny was disposable.

In Egypt, Joseph's light seemed to shine again when he rose to manage Potiphar's household. But just as hope glimmered, the light flickered once more. Falsely accused, he was thrown into prison, forgotten, confined, and seemingly sidelined. From the outside, Joseph's story looked like one setback after another. From favoured son to slave. From trusted manager to prisoner. From dreams of leadership to days of silence behind bars.

Yet, here is the truth: *the flicker was not the end of his flame*. What looked like a delay was really God's process. Every pit prepared him. Every false accusation refined him. Every forgotten day in prison was

shaping his character to carry the weight of his calling. And in one breathtaking turn, the prisoner became prime minister. Joseph stepped out of obscurity to save nations, including the very brothers who once betrayed him.

As Joseph himself said in Genesis 50:20 ESV: ***“You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive.”***

That’s the heartbeat of this chapter: your flickering light doesn’t mean your flame is finished. Setbacks are not God’s rejection, but often His redirection. The pit is not permanent. The prison is not the full stop. What feels like a delay may be God’s training ground for destiny.

So the next time doubt whispers, *“It’s over,”* remember Joseph. His story shouts back: *“The flicker is not the end, it’s the spark before the breakthrough.”*

The Wilderness Is Not the End: Lessons from the life of Bethany Hamilton

Bethany Hamilton loved the ocean. From the time she was a little girl, surfing was her passion. She dreamed of becoming a professional surfer, and at just thirteen years old, she was already on her way.

But one morning in Hawaii, her whole world changed. As she lay on her surfboard, a shark attacked her and took her left arm. In a few terrifying seconds, the life she had imagined for herself seemed gone.

Bethany was rushed to the hospital, fighting to stay alive. In the weeks after, she struggled with questions: “God, why did You let this happen? Will I ever surf again? Do I still have a future?” It felt like heaven was

silent. She was in what I call the wilderness school of faith, where you can't see the answers and you feel as though your light is about to go out.

But Bethany did not give up. She chose to trust that God still had a plan for her life, even if she didn't understand it. Just one month later, she went back into the water with one arm and began learning how to surf all over again. It was hard, and she fell many times. But she refused to quit.

Today, Bethany is not only a successful professional surfer, but also an inspiration to millions of people around the world. Her story was turned into a book and several movies such as Soul Surfer. But even importantly, she uses her life to point people to Jesus, showing that faith works even when life doesn't make sense. She has a family, kids and leads a very successful life. Her story remains a reminder that setbacks do not mean the end. When your light flickers, God can make it shine brighter than ever before.

Your trial may feel like the end, but with God, it can become the beginning of your brightest testimony.

Friend, if you are in the wilderness today, hear this: **The wilderness is not your destination. It is your preparation.**

It is the place where character is built, where your faith muscle grows, and where your trust in God is tested and proven. When you come out, injured or not, you will not just shine, rather you'll shine brighter, stronger, and steadier.

Remember: *“Though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry”* (Habakkuk 2:3).

Your story is not over. The flicker will become a flame. The wilderness will become a testimony. The test will turn into a testimony. And when you graduate from this season, you will be able to say like Joseph: *“You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good”* (Genesis 50:20).

Reflection Questions:

1. Am I quick to interpret delays as God’s denial, or do I trust that He is still writing my story?
2. Like Joseph, can I still serve faithfully (in my ‘prison season’) even when I feel forgotten?
3. What negative voices (internal or external) do I need to silence in order to hear God’s voice clearly in my setback?
4. Am I preparing today for the “palace” God may be calling me to tomorrow?

Action Steps:

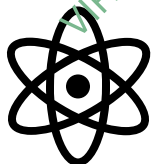
- **Journal Your Setback** – Write down your current challenge, and next to it, list three ways God *could* use it for your growth. This shifts your perspective from defeat to opportunity.
- **Choose Excellence Today** – Like Joseph, who managed Potiphar’s house well even in slavery, commit to doing one task with excellence this week, whether anyone notices or not.
- **Release Offence** – If someone betrayed or disappointed you, pray by name for them this week. Forgiveness clears your heart so God’s light can flow through you.

I Shine: How to Impact Your World God's Way

- **Seek God's Perspective** – Spend 10 minutes daily meditating on Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God.” Let this verse reshape how you see your flickering moments.
- **Prepare for Tomorrow** – Joseph interpreted dreams in prison, which prepared him for Pharaoh's court. What skill, habit, or gift can you start sharpening now, so you're ready when your door opens?

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Chapter 7: Shine with Others: The Power of Godly Connections

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

Proverbs 27:17

Picture this: You're holding a single candle in a dark room. It gives off a warm, steady glow that pushes back a small circle of darkness. But then something profound happens—someone walks into the room carrying another lit candle. Suddenly, the room isn't just twice as bright, it's a lot brighter. Something extraordinary occurs when lights come together.

The impact exceeds that of just a single candle. The combined radiance creates an atmosphere that transforms everything.

This is what happens when multiple people begin to shine together. The bible puts it this way, one shall chase a thousand and two ten thousand (not two thousand) Deut. 32:20

When Jesus called us to be the light of the world, He never intended that we shine alone. Imagine the power of a thousand candles burning together, the darkness has no chance! The truth is simple: **the instruction to shine wasn't given to one person alone, it was given to all of us.**

"You can go fast alone, but you can only go far together."
African Proverb

The Gift of Godly Friendship

Here's a truth that will revolutionise how you think about relationships: **The role of friendship in the arrival of destiny is crucial.**

Look at David's life and you'll see this principle in action. When David met Jonathan, his life was never the same. Here was a young shepherd boy, anointed to be king but still sleeping in fields. Then Jonathan entered the picture—a prince who could have seen David as competition but chose to see him as a covenant friend instead.

God used Jonathan to teach David the rules of the palace. Jonathan taught him strategies for using the sword because Jonathan was a proven warrior, and according to the bible, the only people who had a sword in the entire land of Israel was Jonathan and Saul, His Father. He shared insider knowledge about royal protocol, political dynamics, and survival tactics that no amount of wilderness training could have provided for David. Without Jonathan, David might have been destroyed before ever reaching the throne. **Truly, there is power in the right friendship.**

Hanging around the right people opens you up to the level of wisdom they operate in, and sooner or later, you achieve greatly together.

I remember my early years as a medical doctor, struggling with complex cases despite reading countless medical books and journals. But when a senior colleague took me under his wing, sharing from his real-world experience and offering wise explanations about what things actually meant in practice, everything changed. **His friendship didn't just make me better, it made possibilities I had never considered suddenly achievable.** Exams I hadn't initially intended to write became possible because I was inspired and equipped by a good friend.

Someone once said, **"You are born with your brothers and sisters, but you choose your friends."** That choice might be the most important decision you make for your destiny. **If you want to be great, stay away from negative people.** The wrong crowd can quench your fire, but the right people will fan your flame.

The Definition That Changes Everything

Dr. Myles Munroe of blessed memory defined a friend as **"anyone who is willing and continues to help you arrive at your destiny."** Let that sink in for a moment.

So the question becomes simple: If you want to be great, stay away from negative people.

This isn't about being snobbish or thinking you're better than others. It's about understanding that **wisdom grows in the bosom of wise friends.** The people you consistently spend time with will either fan your flames into a blazing fire or slowly dim your light through constant negativity, doubt, and small thinking.

When I was younger, I sometimes felt sad because I didn't have as many friends as others seemed to have. I failed to realise that this actually

helped me stay more focused and reduce distractions. **Sometimes God's protection looks like fewer wrong connections rather than more right ones.**

Collaboration Over Competition: God's Original Design

Here's something beautiful about God's plan: **There's no room for competition, only collaboration.**

God's plan has always been about teamwork. Even the Trinity operates as a team—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. No one person can fulfil the vision of God alone. That's why the early church thrived in community (Acts 2:42–47). There's no business that succeeds in isolation. There's no family that thrives when members operate as islands. Competition kills, but collaboration multiplies.

You can't do life alone. You need others in your life and in your space.

This means you need to work with people and build your social capital. Invest in relationships. Build networks. **Be nice to everybody.** That person sitting next to you in the coffee shop might be a future governor or prime minister. That classmate who seems ordinary today might be running a multinational company in five years. **They may not appear as this way at the moment, but in the next five years, they will be.**

Your friends—do they add ideas, confidence, direction, and inspiration to your future? **It's friends who possess these qualities that can truly influence your light.**

Anointing by Association

There's a fascinating principle in Scripture called anointing by association. In 1 Samuel 19:19-24, we see Saul's messengers sent to

capture David, but when they encountered the company of prophets with Samuel, **they began prophesying too**. Even Saul himself, when he came to the same place, was overcome by the prophetic atmosphere and began prophesying.

The anointing in that place was so strong that it rubbed off on everyone who came near.

This is why your choice of close friends is so critical. You will inevitably become like the people you spend the most time with. Their mindset becomes your mindset. Their standards become your standards. Their dreams either inspire your dreams or limit them.

You don't just choose friends; you choose your future.

The Danger of Wrong Friendships

As positive as friendship can be, having the wrong friends can lead to your ruin. Proverbs 18:24 warns us: *"One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."*

How reliable are the people around you?

Even King David, despite his wisdom and anointing, suffered betrayal that almost cost him his life because of people he trusted as friends. They came together to plan his downfall. **The word "betrayal" only exists in the context of friendship, because only people who get close can betray you**—the enemy cannot betray you, only a friend can.

This is why **the most important principle for choosing a friend is character over anything else**. Your choice shouldn't be based on the power the person wields, the position they occupy, or how important they appear to be.

Vision and character should decide. Where I'm going in life should determine who I carry along with me.

Your dreams should be stimulated by your friends, not sabotaged by them. If the people closest to you consistently discourage your God-given aspirations, question your potential, or minimise your calling, you're not in friendship, you're in a dream-killing relationship.

The Balance: Wisdom Without Walls

So here's the balance: In spite of the possibility of betrayal, we still need friends. We need people who will trigger our light to shine brighter, who won't quench our flame, but will shine alongside us.

You need other people. God didn't create you to live in isolation, God created you to love and be loved. In fulfilling God's mandate for your life, He sends people your way. People to help you. People to fan those flames into fire. People to help you get charged up. People to keep you on track. **Identify those people and treat them right.**

Healing From the Wounds of Rejection

But let me address something that might be keeping you from healthy relationships. For some, friendship sounds dangerous because you've been hurt before. Many people suffer from deep rejection. You looked for love but couldn't find it. You trusted but were betrayed. You opened your heart but were wounded.

Do you know what rejection does to the human soul? It creates a wound so deep that it can turn a person into something they were never meant to be. Sometimes rejection starts as early as in the womb, and the human spirit picks up on it. When a soul is wounded by rejection, they begin to believe God doesn't care, that God isn't there. It can disfigure a

person's ability to trust, to love, to receive love. Many people become destructive—murderers, prostitutes, or addicts—because of a wounded soul that never healed.

Wounded people wound people. Hurting people hurt other people. That person who was unable to give you love has likely hurt themselves. Your parents treated you the way they did because they were treating you from their own wounds. **You can't give what you don't have.**

But here's what I want you to understand: **When people reject you, God allows it to birth something deep within you.** It creates a form of loneliness that, like Joseph experienced, can actually propel you toward your destiny. Like Joseph, who was rejected by his brothers, sold into slavery, and falsely accused, God used rejection to propel him into his destiny. What others meant for evil, God turned for good (Genesis 50:20).

The love of God is the only cure for rejection. You don't need to beg for the love of man when the Father Himself calls you His beloved. *"Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me."* (Psalm 27:10).

An Invitation to True Connection

If you've suffered rejection and it's difficult to understand God's love, it's time to come out of the cave of isolation. **Come to God and experience His love first.** When you're filled with the love of the Father, you can discern which human relationships will add to that love and which ones will subtract from it.

You were created for connection, but you were created for the right connections. Yes, betrayal is real, but so is covenant friendship. Yes, rejection hurts, but so does isolation. The light you carry is meant to be shared, multiplied, and amplified through godly relationships. But you get to choose who gets access to your flame. Choose wisely. Choose

people of character. Choose people whose dreams are bigger than their fears. Choose people who see your potential even when you can't see it yourself.

When lights come together in unity, they don't just add to each other, they multiply each other.

Your destiny is too important to journey toward alone. But it's also too precious to trust with just anyone. **Find your Jonathans. Be someone's Jonathan. And watch what God does when His people learn to shine together.**

Reflection Questions: Examining Your Circle

Take a moment to pause and honestly examine the relationships in your life. These questions aren't meant to condemn but to help you see clearly where you are and where God wants to take you.

- 1. When you spend time with your closest friends, do you leave feeling more hopeful about your future or more discouraged?** Be brutally honest—your emotional state after time with friends reveals everything.
- 2. Do your friends know your God-given dreams and actively encourage them, or do they consistently question your vision?** Friends who truly love you will fan your flames, not pour water on them.
- 3. Which of your current relationships fit Dr. Munroe's definition: "Anyone who is willing and continues to help you arrive at your destiny"?** Write their names down, these are your treasures.
- 4. Are there people in your circle who consistently drain your energy, discourage your faith, or pull you**

- away from your values?** Identifying these relationships is the first step to making necessary changes.
5. **What kind of friend are you to others? Do you help people get closer to their destiny, or do you hold them back?** Remember, you attract the kind of friend you are.
 6. **When was the last time you intentionally encouraged someone else's dreams, even if they seemed bigger than your own?** Being a Jonathan to someone else often attracts Jonathans to you.
 7. **Are you competing with your friends or collaborating with them?** God's design is teamwork, not rivalry.
 8. **What past hurts or rejections are still affecting your ability to trust and build healthy friendships?** Unhealed wounds often sabotage our best relationships.
 9. **Do you find yourself isolated and claiming you "don't need people," or are you genuinely building meaningful connections?** Isolation masquerading as independence can rob you of your destiny.
 10. **If someone observed your friendships, would they see the love of Christ reflected in how you treat people?** Your friendships are a mirror of your spiritual maturity.

Action Steps: Building Your God-Centred Community

Immediate Actions (This Week):

- Conduct a Friendship Audit List your five closest friends or the people you spend the most time with

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- Next to each name, write: "Adds to my faith" or "Subtracts from my faith"
- Be honest about which relationships consistently encourage your walk with God and which ones don't
- Express Gratitude: Reach out to one person who has been a Jonathan in your life
- Write them a note, send a text, or call to specifically thank them for how they've helped you grow
- Tell them exactly how their friendship has impacted your journey toward your destiny
- Be Someone's Jonathan. Identify someone in your sphere who needs encouragement in pursuing their God-given dreams
- Take one specific action this week to support their vision, share a resource, make an introduction, or simply speak life over their goals

Short-Term Actions (This Month):

- Seek Wise Counsel. Identify one area where you need guidance or growth
- Approach a mature believer whose wisdom you respect and ask if they'd be willing to mentor you in this area
- Be specific about what you're asking for and respect their time
- Join or create a Community. You're not part of a life-giving Christian community; take steps to find one

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- Look for a small group, Bible study, or ministry team where you can build authentic relationships
- If one doesn't exist, consider starting something yourself, even if it's just inviting two people for coffee and prayer
- Practice Healthy Boundaries: If you identified toxic relationships in your audit, begin setting loving but firm boundaries
- This doesn't mean being harsh—it means protecting your peace and your calling
- Consider reducing the time spent with people who consistently drain your spiritual energy

Long-Term Actions (Next 3-6 Months):

- Expand Your Network Strategically: Attend events, conferences, or gatherings where you can meet like-minded believers
- Remember: "Be nice to everybody, governors are sitting among us today"
- Focus on giving value to others rather than just looking for what you can get
- Address Past Wounds. If rejection or betrayal has made you build walls, consider Christian counselling or prayer ministry
- Work through the healing process so past hurts don't sabotage future relationships.
- Remember: "Wounded people wound people". Get healed so you can love freely

- Become a Relationship Builder: Make it your mission to connect other people who could benefit from knowing each other
- Host gatherings, make introductions, create opportunities for others to build community
- When you help others build their networks, God expands yours

A Personal Challenge

Choose one person in your life who needs to experience the love of Christ through friendship. Maybe they're new to your workplace, struggling in their faith, or going through a difficult season. Make a commitment to be intentional about showing them what godly friendship looks like.

This isn't about fixing them or trying to change them, it's about reflecting Christ's love in practical ways.

Sometimes the best way to find good friends is to become the kind of friend you wish you had.

Remember: **Your light is meant to combine with other lights to create something greater than any of you could produce alone.** The world needs to see what happens when believers truly learn to shine together.

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Chapter 8:

Multiplying the Light: Mentorship, Discipleship, and Legacy

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." — 2 Timothy 2:2

Light That Outlives You

It's not enough to shine alone. True greatness is measured not by how bright you shine in your lifetime, but by how much of that light remains after you are gone. Jesus did not just shine His light; He multiplied it

through His disciples, who carried His message across generations. That is the power of mentorship, discipleship, and legacy.

It's not just that you are the salt of the earth, you are salt whose savour must remain strong. It's not just that you are light, you are light whose illuminating power must outlast the present moment.

The most radiant believers I know aren't just those who shine brightly—they're the ones who have learned to multiply their light through others. They understand that true success isn't just about reaching your own mountaintop; it's about helping others climb mountains they never thought they could conquer.

This is where good light-bearers become great light-multipliers.

The Power of Mentorship

Bishop David Oyedepo once said something that transformed my thinking about mentorship: **"Mentors are ladders that we climb to the top. Without a mentor, you have no ladder. Without a ladder, your access to the top could remain a daydream."**

Think about that for a moment. Every giant you admire, every leader you respect, every person whose light seems to burn with unusual brightness, they all have one thing in common. **They stood on someone else's shoulders.**

It's impossible for an eaglet to become an adult eagle without mentorship. The parent eagles don't just feed their young; they teach them to soar. They show them how to catch thermals, how to spot prey from impossible heights, and how to build nests that can withstand storms. Without that guidance, the baby eagle might survive, but it will never truly fly.

Hebrews 6:12 says:

"Be followers of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

This means every promise you are believing for has already been obtained by someone. Find them. Learn from them. Let their testimony be your roadmap.

Here's a truth that might surprise you: **There is nothing you're called to do that someone else has not done before.** Your future fear is someone else's past success. That mountain that looks impossible to you? Someone has already climbed it and can show you the best routes, warn you about the dangerous paths, and encourage you when the journey gets tough.

Many people have pastors, but not many have mentors. **There's a difference and understanding it could change your life.**

A pastor feeds you spiritual food and provides pastoral care to a congregation. But **a mentor smashes mental barriers specifically for you.** A mentor takes personal interest in your individual destiny. A mentor shares not just general wisdom, but specific insights tailored to your unique calling.

Just like you have biological fathers, you need destiny fathers—visionary fathers who will help you fulfil your vision and destiny.

Relating to those above you helps you climb up. This isn't about social climbing or using people, it's about **drawing from the wealth of experience above you,** which is one of the most amazing gifts God has given us.

No man is an island unto himself. Most great leaders are the offspring of another leader. If you don't have anyone you're following, there may not be anyone following you. It's a spiritual principle that works like a

river—water flows from higher ground to lower ground and then continues flowing to even lower ground.

Beyond Prayer: The Submission Factor

Here's where many believers get stuck. They want to go to their next level, but they think prayer alone is enough. **Prayer is powerful, but prayer plus mentorship is unstoppable.**

You must submit yourself to leadership, to mentorship. This requires humility, the willingness to say, "I don't know everything, and I need guidance from someone who has walked this path before me."

I once heard a statement by a minister I respect a lot, **"There is nothing new under the sun. There is nowhere I'm going that someone has not gone before and there's no calling on my life that someone has not fulfilled before."**

That's the mindset of a wise person, always looking for those who can provide shortcuts to success, warnings about pitfalls, and encouragement for the journey.

The Accountability Factor: Iron Sharpening Iron

Accountability keeps your light burning brighter and longer.

One of the greatest gifts mentorship provides is accountability. **People need to be accountable. Iron sharpens iron.** Surround yourself with mentors who will hold you accountable, not to tear you down, but to keep you sharp.

Too many people fear people more than they fear God. They're more concerned about what their friends think than what their Creator thinks.

But when you have godly mentors, they help you maintain the right perspective and priorities.

Beware of excess comfort. Even David, the man after God's own heart, fell into sin when he isolated himself from godly counsel and misused his power. When we stop being accountable to wise voices, we become vulnerable to deception and pride.

Your mentors should challenge you, stretch you, and sometimes tell you things you don't want to hear. **If everyone around you always agrees with you, you're not being mentored, you're being flattered.**

The Call to Discipleship: From Mentee to Mentor

But here's where the plot thickens beautifully. **The moment you begin receiving from mentors, you must also begin giving to mentees.**

God does not only call people to certain ministries, He calls people to people. Jesus didn't just preach; He discipled twelve men who in turn discipled others. Discipleship is multiplication.

Mentorship pulls you up, but discipleship pulls others up with you. It's not enough to be mentored; you must also become a mentor. Paul told Timothy:

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others" (2 Timothy 2:2, NIV).

When you disciple others, you are multiplying light. You are making sure the flame doesn't die with you.

To shine alone is addition; to disciple others is multiplication.

Make a second commitment today to begin becoming a discipler.

Find people you can coach and mentor. Start pulling others out of the wrong ways of living and thinking. This isn't about waiting until you've

"arrived." This is about understanding that **someone is always behind you, needing exactly what you've already learned.** The mistake you made last year could save someone from making it this year. The breakthrough you experienced six months ago could be the hope someone else needs today.

The goal isn't just to climb the ladder, it's to help others climb it too.

The Mentorship—Discipleship Mindset Shift

Here's the beautiful transformation that happens when you embrace both sides of mentorship:

Being mentored keeps you growing. It ensures you never stop learning, never stop being challenged, never stop reaching for new levels of effectiveness.

Mentoring others keeps you grounded. It reminds you that your success isn't just about you. It keeps your heart tender and your perspective fresh. It forces you to articulate what you've learned and pass it on clearly.

When you're simultaneously being poured into and pouring out, you become a river instead of a reservoir. Rivers are always fresh, always flowing, always bringing life wherever they go.

Key Principles to Look Out for in Choosing a Mentor

1. Integrity – Do they live what they preach?

A true mentor is not just eloquent with words; they embody truth in their daily life. Integrity means *consistency*; that their private life aligns with their public life. Jesus said, *"Let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'"* (Matthew

5:37). When you follow someone, you're not only learning their skills, you're also inheriting their values. If a mentor says one thing but lives another, that's a warning sign. The best mentors live in a way that you can confidently imitate, knowing they're not double-faced.

Integrity is the backbone of true influence.

2. Character – Who are they when no one is watching?

Character is deeper than charisma. Some people can impress a crowd but fail the test of private holiness. The real question is: How do they treat people when there's no applause? How do they handle money, relationships, and temptations? Paul wrote, *"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ"* (1 Corinthians 11:1). That's character—it's not perfection, but a heart surrendered to God, striving to live uprightly.

Charisma may get attention, but character sustains respect.

3. Productivity – Do they bear lasting fruit?

The proof of a mentor's guidance is not in their promises but in their results. Jesus Himself said, *"You will know them by their fruits"* (Matthew 7:16). Is their life producing godly outcomes? Do their spiritual, professional, or family lives reflect growth and impact? A good mentor multiplies value not just in their own life, but also in the lives of others they've trained. You should be able to trace their fruit in people, projects, and legacy.

Don't just admire what they say, examine what they've built.

When choosing a mentor, look beyond titles and fame. Ask: *Do they walk in integrity, live with character, and bear lasting fruit?* That's the kind of person who will multiply light in your life, not diminish it.

Legacy: Light That Lasts

Legacy is leaving behind more light than you started with. It is transferring wisdom, values, and faith to the next generation. Scripture says in Proverbs 13:22, "*A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children.*" This inheritance is not just money, but principles, faith, and a shining example.

Always leave a legacy, so that others may benefit from your service to God. This is what separates those who simply succeed from those who create lasting impact.

Your legacy isn't just what you accomplish, it's who you develop along the way. It's not just the mountains you climb, it's the people you help climb mountains after you're gone.

Think about Jesus. His earthly ministry lasted only three years, but **His legacy has been multiplying for over two thousand years.** Why? Because He didn't just do ministry, He developed multipliers. He didn't just shine His light, He taught others to become lights.

The light you carry today is not just for your generation. It's seed light, meant to be planted in others so it can grow.

The greatest leaders are often the offspring of another leader. Moses raised Joshua. David raised Solomon. Paul raised Timothy. Even Elisha followed Elijah. Greatness always leaves a trail for others to follow.

If no one follows you after you're gone, you didn't multiply the light, you only carried it.

Ending note:

The question isn't whether you have something to offer or something to learn. The question is: Will you be humble enough to receive and generous enough to give?

Your light is waiting to multiply. Your legacy is waiting to be written. Your mentors and mentees are waiting to be discovered.

The multiplication starts now.

Reflection Questions

1. Who are the mentors in my life that I can intentionally learn from in this season?
2. Am I accountable to anyone who can correct me in love?
3. Who are the people I am discipling, coaching, or mentoring right now?
4. What legacy of faith, values, and influence am I building for those coming after me?

Action Steps

1. **Find a Mentor:** Prayerfully identify someone who has gone ahead in the path you desire and seek their guidance.
2. **Be a Mentor:** Start intentionally discipling or coaching at least one person this year.

Multiplying the Light: Mentorship, Discipleship, and Legacy

3. **Stay Accountable:** Create a circle of godly counsel who can speak into your blind spots.
4. **Think Legacy:** Write down what you want people to remember about your life and start living it today.

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Chapter 9:

Shine Forward: A Challenge to Live Boldly And Unapologetically

There comes a moment in every journey when the preparation ends and the mission begins. Here we are, at the threshold of transformation. After eight chapters of discovery, growth, and illumination, you stand at a crossroads. Behind you lies the person you once were—perhaps dimmed by doubt, obscured by fear, or hidden in the shadows of "ordinary." Before you stretches a path blazing with possibility, where your light doesn't just flicker—it burns bright, steady, and unapologetic.

That's what this chapter is about, stepping out and shining forward. Everything you've read in this book has been a call to rise, but now is the time to act. *Light was never meant to remain hidden, it was made to shine.*

Paul captures it so well in **Ephesians 5:8–9 (AMP):**

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of Light [live as those who are native-born to the Light]; for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth.”

This scripture is not just poetry; it is a mandate. To shine forward is to live so fully in your God-given light that your life naturally produces *goodness, righteousness, and truth.*

The Altar Call of Your Life

This moment—right here, right now—is your altar call. Not just to receive something, but to become someone. Someone who embodies goodness that touches the broken places of this world. Someone who walks in righteousness, that stands firm when the storms come. Someone who speaks truth that cuts through the noise and confusion of our time.

Your life is the altar. Your choices are the offering. Your light is the flame that sanctifies it all.

Every morning you wake up, you're making a choice. Will you shrink back into comfortable shadows, or will you step boldly into the blazing reality of who God says you are? Will you dim your light to make others comfortable, or will you shine with such authenticity that you give others permission to do the same?

Keep Your Lamp Burning

In the parable of the ten virgins, Jesus warns us about lamps running out of oil (Matthew 25:1–13). To shine forward means not letting your flame die out. Yes, you may have setbacks. Yes, sometimes your light may flicker. But don't quit. Refill your oil daily in God's presence, through prayer, the Word, and fellowship.

Ask yourself: *Is my lamp bright enough to light the way for others?*

Your lamp will burn brightest when it's fueled by three things:

- **Faith that doesn't flinch** in the face of impossibility
- **Love that doesn't limit** itself to the deserving
- **Hope that doesn't dim** even when the path seems unclear

These aren't abstract concepts, they're the practical fuel that keeps your light burning when winds of adversity try to snuff it out.

A dim lamp cannot guide a generation. Keep your lamp burning!

You Are Not Too Young

Don't say, "I am too young," or "I don't have enough experience." Jeremiah tried to use youth as an excuse, but God said:

"Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you" (Jeremiah 1:7).

History proves this: In Israel, King Josiah ascended the throne at the age of eight. David was a teenager when he faced Goliath. Timothy was young when Paul entrusted him with great responsibility. Mary was likely a young woman when she carried the Saviour of the world.

Age is not the qualification, calling is.

Whether you're eighteen or eighty, God isn't waiting for you to be "ready enough" or "old enough" or "experienced enough." He's waiting for you to be *willing enough*. The world needs your light now, not someday when you feel more qualified.

Stop using your youth as an excuse. Stop using your inexperience as a hiding place. Start using your passion, your fresh perspective, and your unburdened faith as the very tools God wants to use to shake up a world grown too comfortable with dimness.

Destiny does not wait for age; it responds to readiness.

The Seriousness of Destiny

It takes a serious approach to secure a great destiny.

Casual living will never produce an extraordinary impact. If you treat your light carelessly, you will dim too soon. But if you guard it, fuel it, and shine it intentionally, you will leave a mark.

Think of pioneers like Billy Graham, Kathryn Kuhlman, or contemporary leaders like Dr. Myles Munroe. They did not just exist, they *burned with purpose*.

Great destinies aren't stumbled into; they're stepped into with purpose. They require:

- **Discipline** when you'd rather drift
- **Consistency** when you'd rather quit
- **Courage** when you'd rather hide
- **Compassion** when you'd rather judge
- **Faith** when you'd rather fear

Shine Forward: A Challenge to Live Boldly And Unapologetically

Every chapter of this book has been preparing you for this moment—the moment when you stop reading about shining and start actually blazing with the glory of God.

Casual commitment never births eternal influence.

A Call to Boldness

To shine forward is to live boldly and unapologetically. The world will try to dim your brightness with criticism, compromise, or fear. But Jesus said in **Matthew 5:14–16**:

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

So stop apologising for being radiant. Don’t shrink to make others comfortable. Boldly stand for righteousness, truth, and love.

Light never asks permission to shine, it just does. So should you.

The Movement Forward

This is more than a personal decision; it’s a movement. Imagine a generation that refuses to live small, that shines with goodness, righteousness, and truth in schools, workplaces, cities, and nations. That’s the vision.

But it begins with you. *Shine forward*. Be the one who starts the chain reaction. And don’t keep it to yourself, share this message, mentor someone younger, and pass the light along. That’s how legacy is built.

The world doesn’t need more imitators—it needs more illuminators. Be one.

Your Radiant Legacy

Years from now, when people tell your story, what will they say? Will they speak of someone who played it safe, who chose comfort over calling, who dimmed their light to fit in? Or will they tell of someone who blazed so brightly that they lit up every room they entered, who loved so deeply that hearts were forever changed, who believed so boldly that impossibilities became inevitabilities?

The choice is yours. The time is now. The light is within you.

Stand up. Step forward. Shine bright.

The world is waiting for your light. Don't keep us waiting any longer.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

Reflection Questions

1. What area of your life needs more boldness right now?
2. Have you been dimming your light out of fear, insecurity, or comfort?
3. Who can you intentionally shine forward to, by mentoring, encouraging, or serving?

Your assignment is clear:

- **Live boldly.** Make decisions from faith, not fear. Take risks that only make sense in light of eternity.

Shine Forward: A Challenge to Live Boldly And Unapologetically

- **Love unapologetically.** Don't hedge your compassion. Don't metre your mercy. Pour out love like it's unlimited because it is.
- **Lead authentically.** Whether you're leading a family, a team, or a movement, do it with the integrity that comes from knowing who you are in Christ.
- **Share relentlessly.** This message - this call to radiance - isn't meant to stop with you. **Share this book. Share your story. Share the hope** that has transformed you from ordinary to extraordinary.

Final Challenge

You can only be young once. You can only live this life once. Don't waste your shine. The stage is set, the world is waiting, and heaven is cheering you on.

Your journey from ordinary to radiant is complete. Your mission to shine forward has just begun.

Welcome to the movement. Welcome to your destiny. Welcome to the brilliant, blazing, beautiful life you were born to live.

Now go—and shine forward.

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Appendix: Practical Prayers for Impact

These prayers are written to help you put into words what your heart longs for—to shine forward, to carry God's light, and to make a lasting impact in your world. Use them as daily confessions, reflections, or declarations of faith.

Tip for the reader: **Pray each section out loud**, inserting their own situations. The spoken word has power, and these declarations are designed to be both **prophetic and practical**.

Appendix: Practical Prophetic Prayers for Impact

Prayer for Identity in Christ

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:9

“Lord, I thank You that I am chosen, called out of darkness into Your marvellous light. Help me never to forget who I am in You. Strengthen me to live boldly as Your light-bearer, reflecting Your glory in all I do.”

Prayer for Consistency and Growth

Scripture: Matthew 5:16

“Father, let my light so shine before men that they may see my good works and glorify You. Teach me to grow daily in faith, discipline, and wisdom. Keep me consistent even in hidden places, so that my life speaks louder than my words.”

Light Over Darkness

Scripture: *“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”* – 1 John 1:5

Reflection:

Darkness cannot remain where light is present. If you have Jesus, you carry His light. That means no shadow, no negativity, no bondage has a legal right to stay around you.

Prayer Declaration:

Father, You are light, and in You there is no darkness at all. Therefore, every form of darkness in my life—whether fear, sickness, oppression, or confusion—disappears now in Jesus’ name! I destroy every negative thing working against me. I walk in the light of Christ.

Protection From Agents of Darkness

Scripture: *"The dark places of the earth are full of cruelty."* – Psalm 74:20

Reflection:

Darkness often hides cruelty, manipulation, and betrayal. Sometimes, one wrong relationship can do more damage than ten enemies. But when God's light shines, hidden agendas are exposed and destroyed.

Prayer Declaration:

Lord, every agent of darkness positioned around my life, you will go no further! Every hidden plan to cause me pain, Lord, scatter in Jesus' name. I cut off every toxic connection, and I surround myself with people who bring Your light.

Light that Brings Life

Scripture: *"In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* – John 1:4—5

Reflection:

Where light shines, life springs forth. Dead things cannot remain when the light of Christ is present whether it's a dead dream, a broken relationship, or even a sick organ. His light brings resurrection power.

Prayer Declaration:

Lord, Your light is life. I command life into every dead area of my existence, my marriage, my health, my business, my dreams. By Your light, let everything that has withered come alive again.

Appendix: Practical Prophetic Prayers for Impact

Light Determines Flight

Scripture: *“The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.”* – Proverbs 4:18

Reflection:

Your destiny will move as far as you can see. When God increases your light, He increases your speed. Light brings direction, clarity, and acceleration.

Prayer Declaration:

Lord, let Your light shine brighter on my path. I receive supernatural speed in my life, in my purpose, and in my assignment. No delay, no stagnation—only progress by the light of God!

The Fire Dimension of Light

Scripture: *“Our God is a consuming fire.”* – Hebrews 12:29

Reflection:

The sun’s light carries energy—heat, rays, and waves that can burn, heal, or transform. If the physical sun can release power that shrinks tumours, imagine what the Creator’s light can do! God’s light doesn’t just shine; it burns away bondage and sets people free.

Prayer Declaration:

Lord, let Your fire fall upon my life. Let Your light penetrate every deep corner of darkness—healing sickness, breaking oppression, and destroying the enemy’s works. I call upon Your angels of light to fight for me and uproot every demonic presence tormenting me.

Rise and Shine

Scripture: *“Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.”* – Isaiah 60:1

Reflection:

You are not called to hide, you are called to shine. When you shine, others find direction. When you rise, others rise with you.

Prayer Declaration:

I will arise and shine! I will soar high, unhindered, unstoppable, unapologetic. By the glory of God upon me, I am a light-bearer to my generation.

Prayer for Godly Relationships

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 4:9–10 NIV; Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

Prayer Declaration:

Father, surround me with godly friends, mentors, and destiny helpers who sharpen me and lift me when I fall. Help me also to be a blessing to others, that together, we may shine brighter for Your kingdom.

Appendix: Practical Prophetic Prayers for Impact

Prayer for Multiplying Impact

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:2 NIV And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

Prayer Declaration:

Lord, help me to pour into others what You have poured into me. Teach me to disciple, mentor, and leave a legacy of light. May my life spark generations of light-bearers long after I am gone.

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About the Author

Dr. Somto Igboanugo is a UK based youth leader passionate about raising Christ-centred influencers. He oversees a thriving youth movement and hosts the annual Ignite Conference, a major gathering that unites young people around purpose and impact.

Beyond ministry, he's a medical doctor, certified life coach, TEDx speaker, entrepreneur, and former leadership development consultant. His work spans church, healthcare, and the marketplace with one mission: to help people shine God's light in every sphere of life.

Somto communicates with warmth, clarity, and conviction. His message is simple and compelling: you were created to shine and the world needs your light.

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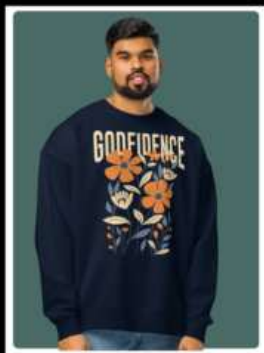
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