## Reflecting a Light for the Som! +†+

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All that we say and do and decide, really, is a reflection of what is in our heart—something to think about before saying or doing or deciding each new day. Often what we say is just reflecting what we have retained in our heart.

2 Corinthians 4:6 "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." With the knowledge of God's Truth in our heart, then we should be reflecting the light of His Son in our life.

The definition for *reflecting* is "sending back an image" of something—so if we have the gift of the Holy Spirit in our heart, we would be "sending back a likeness" of the Lord Jesus who resides in our heart.

It was said: Although no one can go back and make a new start; anyone can start now to make a new ending. The next step then is to repent and restart from today—this time depending on and fully trusting on, God's power to control the situation; our attitude; our words; and our response to anything that needs a response—that it be a right one and a scriptural one.

Believers are *justified* so the next step is to be *sanctified*—meaning allowing God to change our attitude and to mold our Christian character into the person *He* wants us to be. Isaiah 64:8 "O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand"—if we allow Him to work with us to bring the changes that *He* sees are needed in us.

God is the Master Potter who wants to *mold* our life and our attitudes—He wants to work *through* us and *with* us while we are here on earth. If the potter does not like what the clay is becoming, he just starts forming it into what he *does* want it to be—we have to allow Him to do it.

When we do something wrong, He does *not* discard us, but *shows* us our mistake, so we can repent and thank Him for revealing our mistake. God can then reshape our attitudes and desires to be what *He* wants them to be. As He continues the molding and changing process, we become more like His Son—reflecting *His* attitudes of patience, forgiveness, and divine love.

Life is a journey to become more like Jesus regarding every situation we meet with along the way. Philippians 2:5 "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." We are to not just look out for our concerns but for those of others as well—that is the attitude of Jesus. How we live in this world is important to God—our life is to reflect the attitudes of His Son!

The apostle met the glorified Jesus on the road to Damascus and wanted to tell everyone about it. Acts 26:20 "I proceeded to preach first to the people in Damascus, and then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judaea, and to the Gentiles, that they must repent and turn to God, and live lives consistent with such repentance"—which would be reflecting the light of the Son of God!

The apostle was converted and committed to serving the Lord Jesus. He asked Acts 9:6 "What wilt thou have me to do?" We are to do what God wants us to do—to repent, ask for the gift of His Spirit, and to serve the Lord from that point. With the Holy Spirit in our heart, we are to be so grateful for what Jesus has done for us, that we want to reflect the light of His Truth in every way we can.

What we *believe* compels us into *action*—to actually *live* the Truth we have come to *know* from God—it is the only *way* to Heaven. All too many *say*, but do not *play* by the Book—Titus 1:16 "They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good."

It is easy to *say* we believe in Christ, but *not* so easy to *live* like we do. The devil is always right there to tempt us; to accuse us; or to defile our conscience in some way. We must always be *aware* of his evil ways to have us take a *wrong attitude* toward something or someone. The apostle spoke on forgiveness and reminded us to be *alert* <sup>2</sup> Corinthians <sup>2:11</sup> "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."

Jesus warns repeatedly that we must be watchful and aware and alert for deceitful tricks and traps of the devil. 2 Corinthians 5:15 "[Jesus] died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live to please themselves. Instead, they will live to please Christ, who died and was raised for them." Living to please Jesus, will be reflecting the light of His Truth.

We must show fruits of repentance— Ephesians 2:10 "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do [that we should walk in them]." God has prepared us to do what He explains in His Word to do. 2 Corinthians 5:17 "What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!" Now we can prove, or disprove, by our reflection—do we reflect the ways and attitudes of the world, or the ways and attitudes of the Word!

God created us to live a life that reflects *His* character. He wants us to *love* Him and to *trust* Him for everything in life. He wants our life to glorify *Him—that* is why we are here. In reality, our *life;* our ways; and our decisions will reflect what, or whom, we love. It was said that *You may not always do what you say; but you will almost always do what you believe!* Our *actions* reflect our *beliefs*.

If we believe that stealing is wrong, we will not steal; if we believe that killing is wrong, we would never do it; if we believe that helping the poor is right, we will help them. If we have truly given our life to God, our activities, our choices, and our attitudes will reflect His love in our heart. It is our priority prayer everyday—to die to self and live for Him.

It is not what we can do by our own ability, but if we are willing to trust *Him* to do the right thing by *His* ability and power. It is a matter of being totally surrendered to *His will* without compromising or holding anything back. It is the *only* way to live. Luke 14:33 "Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." If we are not following the Lord, then we are following the world—there is no inbetween position.

A past President of the United States once said that his *personal* life did *not* affect his *political* life—it did not affect his job as President—however, when a person accepts a job of *that* magnitude, they are President twenty-four hours

a day, seven days a week. There is never a moment when they are not President.

In a similar way, we have decided to put our *faith* in God, and we have chosen to be a *believer* in Jesus—therefore, we *are* a believer twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. There is never a time when we are *not* believing—we are constantly choosing and walking as a *believer*. Others are watching and listening—we must constantly be *Reflecting a Light for the Son!* 

The writer says Hebrews 6:9 "We are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak. 10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

11 "And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: 12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

If Jesus is living *in* us—we should *not* wonder what His will is *for* us—we just *ask* Him; or *read* the instructions and praying for divine *wisdom* to *discern* His Truth. God is just asking us to *behave* in a certain way, so we should ask Him in prayer to help us *behave* in that right and scriptural way.

There is never a time when we are not *trusting* Him to take us safely through the day. It is *continual* trust; *constant* protection; *every-moment* dependence on His power to control every aspect of every day. If we will *do* this, we will automatically reflect a light for the Son.

Reflecting a light for God's Truth means to *help* someone and not expect any *help* in return; it is volunteering our time for a worthy cause—doing charitable deeds to make things easier for some person or family. Loving God means loving

people made in His image, because it is *Him* in *us* loving *them* through us. As the apostle *did*, we *do*—asking the Lord Jesus *What would He have us do*, so we would be reflecting a light for Him.

We should take care of the interests of *others* before taking care of our *own—that* is reflecting a light for the Son of God. We are working *with* Christ, so all that we *say*, *do* and *decide*, is to show His *kingdom* by showing His *attitude* to people around us. God wants everyone to see the *light* of His *Truth*—and they *will* if we will reflect a light for Him.

Jesus said Matthew 9:37 "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." We are fellow workers with Christ when we reflect a light for Him.

The apostle was Romans 1:16 "Not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." We need to live a life that is not our will being done, but the will of God being done with everything.

Jesus said, "Follow Me," and we do that by reflecting a light of His Truth. Revelation 19:8 "And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints." We were created to glorify God with our life—we are to forsake the attitudes of this world and start Reflecting a Light for the Son. We start by deciding to follow Jesus!

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