

Bible Study Resource

A Sojourner's Guide

1 Peter 2:9-10

He has "...called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Peter 1:9b

As sojourners, Peter encourages us with a metaphor of darkness and light. It is a familiar image we find throughout the Old and New Testament. Psalms tells us that God wraps Himself in light and illuminates our darkness. The Apostle John tells us that God is light; and darkness cannot exist in His presence. Jesus reveals the He is the light of the world, and freely offers us the gift of salvation. And it is salvation that allows us to walk in the marvelous light described by Peter. To walk in the light is a calling that will forever change you.

Called to Shine

Isaiah 60:1, Philippians 2:14-15, John 3:19-21

We live in a dark world, and we are called to shine in it. You are called to shine so that the world can see a difference. You shine, not because of who you are, but because of who God is in you. When you shine, you bring attention to God and to the work He is doing in you; and in shining, you glorify Him. As you go about your daily routine, where is your focus? How do your words and actions glorify God? How do you reflect the work God is doing in and through you? Do your works glorify God, or do they simply reflect your own effort and accomplishments?

Called to Overcome

Proverbs 4:18, 1 John 1:5-7, John 1:4-5, Romans 13:12

As bearers of God's light, we are called to overcome the darkness because it distorts God's image in us. Just as a mirror needs to be physically cleaned to produce an accurate reflection, we must be spiritually cleaned to produce a pure reflection of the light. How do you remove spiritual smudges? How are you overcoming the darkness in your life? How do you keep sin from dimming your reflection of Him to others?

Called to Understand

Psalms 36:9, Psalm 119:130, 2 Corinthians 4:6

Light produces clarity and reveals what would otherwise be hidden. God's light reveals truth and declares the knowledge of Him. Light enables us to understand what would otherwise be shrouded in mystery. How is God's light changing your perspective? How does your understanding of His light help you to get through difficult times? As you study the Bible, how does it clarify your understanding of Him? And how does your knowledge of Him change how you see yourself?

Called to Change

Matthew 5:14-16, Ephesians 5:7-10

Living in the light of God's truth changes everything. As you gaze into His marvelous light, He shapes your desire to match His; and He molds your will to conform with His plan. As we stand in the light, He enables us to do His perfect will. How are you shining for Him? How does His light affect your attitude? How does it affect your attention and your focus? How does it affect your behavior?