



Shine Not Hide

Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV)

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

We shine brightest when:

1. We remember Jesus calls us to shine - not hide!

(Matthew 5:14)

- Making faith in Christ a private matter keeps the world in darkness.

2. We realize we can only reflect light and not produce light.

John 15:5 (NIV)

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

- How bright we shine is totally dependent on our relationship to the Son.
(Acts 4:13)

3. We remember that our darkest moments can be the greatest opportunities to shine the brightest.

Romans 5:3 (NIV)

Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;

- Pain can be our greatest platform to shine.

4. We shine together.

5. We realize sin is a dimmer switch.

John 3:19-20 (NIV)

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.

We dim our light when:

- ◇ We choose to hide instead of shine.
- ◇ Our words are careless and coarse.
(Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:5-6)
- ◇ Our morality reflects the culture instead of the King!

1 Timothy 4:12 (NIV)

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.