

November 14, 2021

Scott's Thoughts



“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 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 5:14–16, ESV)

Are we being light or darkness? It is amazing how these two polar opposites seem to be so out of balance in our world today. Most people spend very little time trying to be a light. They don't have a problem with light. They want to receive the light but do not bring light to the people around them. It is good when light brings joy to someone. It is also easy. It only takes a moment to brighten someone's day with a word of encouragement, appreciation, or acknowledgment.

The encouragement that light gives to others can make an amazing difference for them. Since light can be so easy, why do we find it so difficult to do? I can't speak for everyone, only myself. It has taken me a long time to realize that this has been one of my greatest failings in life. I really do appreciate the things other people do and the encouragement (light) they bring to my life. Sadly, I have often failed to shine light in the lives of others. Many times, it is because I have been busy and had many things on my mind. It could be forgetfulness but, mostly it just hasn't seemed to be a priority.

Several years ago, I learned the importance of prioritizing the giving of light. During my extended illness, many people reached out to help and encourage me. Many of them I barely knew. Yet, they were right there giving me encouragement every step of the way. Sometimes they just asked me how I was doing or gave me a smile, at other times they greeted me or gave me a handshake. I appreciated each of them. They contributed to my contentment and mental well-being. They taught me by their examples that light means more than just saying, “You did a good job.” It is taking an interest in others and knowing something about them. The more we know about them, the easier it is to brighten their day and knowing more about others allows us to tailor the light that we shine on them to their specific needs.

So, when I moved to Newkirk in 2017, I committed to being a light to others and to preach lessons that were meant to encourage and have tried to keep that commitment to the best of my ability. I still enjoy it when others shed light into my life but, encouraging others and bringing light to them has become an incredible joy.

What will we be, light or darkness? It is a quest that each of us must answer and then carry through. I pray we will choose Light! *“for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),”* (Ephesians 5:8–9, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining.

—Scott