

“Are You A Beacon?”

One night last week, my dog and I went out for her “last call” as dusk approached. My elevated condo overlooks the fronts of six units down the street, and as I looked down the row of sidewalks, I noticed someone’s lamp post light came on - we have dusk to dawn sensors on our post lights. It reminded me of the first line in a song we probably all know: *“This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine...”*

As I stood there I told the Lord “I want your light in me to come on automatically anytime I encounter darkness!” Mt. 5:14-16 in TPT says: *“Your lives light up the world. For how can you hide a city that stands on a hilltop? And who would light a lamp and then hide it in an obscure place? Instead, it’s placed where everyone in the house can benefit from its light. So don’t hide your light! Let it shine brightly before others, so that your commendable works will shine as light upon them, and then they will give their praise to your Father in heaven.”*

Have you ever been in a gathering of people and someone you know who is pessimistic joins the group? It’s like a dark cloud moves in and brings with it doom and gloom - some of my in-laws (sorry Vicki) were like that - whenever we visited them it was like walking into an atmosphere where the barometric pressure had dropped considerably!

On the other hand, I’m sure we’ve all been in some type of gathering when someone with a sparkling attitude comes in, and it’s like a breath of fresh air that charges the atmosphere with positivity! Ephesians 5:8,11 says: *“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light...Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.”*

There is one simple explanation for why our society has been rapidly “going to hell in a handbasket.” It’s because we as Christians have not let our lights shine into the darkness to dispel it, we have kept silent for too long and allowed the darkness to overtake us! We have not EXPOSED the deeds of darkness like the Bible tells us to! We have not confronted them, but instead have tolerated them, excused them, covered them up and allowed them to become the new normal!

Church! We need to wake up! Whenever and wherever we encounter darkness, we need to automatically “light up,” speak up, and come against the lies of the enemy with the truth of God’s word! Maybe our spiritual “dusk to dawn” sensors have lost their sensitivity; maybe we need to ask the Lord to upgrade our spiritual **monitors**. **We** aren’t meant to be little penlights - we are called to be BEACONS of light and hope! Amen!