

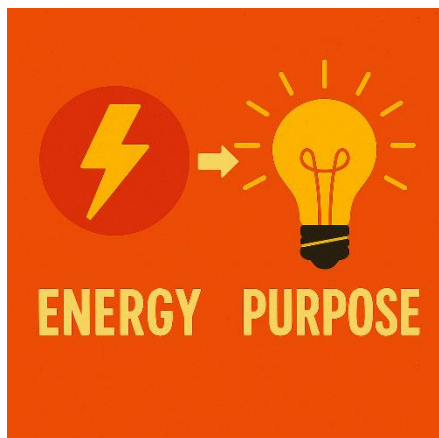


Grace Outreach Ministries Asia

...encouraging the oppressed and giving hope to the abandoned

‘Watt’ Is Your Brightness?

Yes, I know, it looks like a typo, doesn't it? But before we mentally swap that “Watt” for a “What,” pause for a second. This intentional twist is more than just a pun. It's a prompt to nudge us to think beyond just the wordplay. You see, in the world of light bulbs, **watts measure power consumption**, while **lumens reveal brightness**. This is a powerful analogy for life. Sometimes we expend a lot of energy without truly illuminating anything.



A bulb needs power to shine in a room. The more efficient the bulb, the more lumens of light it gives off without wasting energy.

Jesus said His followers are the light of the world. But like light bulbs, we don't shine on our own. We need a power source. Without it, we can burn out or grow dim. But when we are connected to Jesus, the true power source, we can light up even the darkest places.

Jesus drives this home in the Sermon on the Mount:

“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)

Notice, Jesus is not calling the disciples to hide their light under a basket but to lift it high, boldly, and visibly, so it penetrates the darkness and exposes man's sin.

As bearers of His light, we don't drive out darkness by our own strength but by Christ's life within us (John 8:12; Gal 2:20,21). When we stay connected to His power and let our lives embody the reality of the gospel, others are drawn into truth (Eph 5:8), and God's glory shines through every act of love that we do.

This raises our question:

How Do We Walk in the Light?

1. Stay Connected to the Source

Take a moment to reflect: Are we relying on our own strength, or are we drawing daily from Jesus's endless love and power through prayer, Scripture, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit? Consider how we are spending our time. Are we nurturing our relationship with Jesus through worship, reading and applying His Word, and also connecting with others who share our faith? Let us keep our hearts open and our spirits refreshed. The world around us is dark and heavy, but His light is always there to guide us.

2. Shine Right Where You Are

Jesus taught that a lamp is placed where it can brighten the whole room. Wherever we are, whether as a parent, coworker, friend, or neighbor, let His light shine through us. In our family, show Jesus' love by leading with patience and grace. At work, strive for excellence and encourage those around us by sharing how His strength inspires and moves us. We don't need to wait for the perfect moment. We can start today, using our words, actions, and kindness to let His love shine and bring hope to those around us.

3. Focus on Impact, Not Just Effort

It's not about how much energy we pour out (watts), but how much light we share (lumens). Let our life reflect Jesus's love, peace, and truth in ways that touch others deeply. It's not about what we can do on our own; it's about letting His power work through us. Allow God's grace to flow through our actions, words, and compassion, making a real difference in the lives around us. You're not alone in this. He's with you, shining through you. So go ahead and be the light that he has called us to be.

4. Remove the Basket

I have looked silly at times with my **“spiritual basket”** over my head, letting distractions get in the way. Like many of us, I've faced the fear of rejection. Yet, we need to overcome this fear by staying fully charged and rooted in Jesus. Jesus was rejected, and so will we. Here is our challenge: **take one bold step this week** to let His light shine. Share your faith with a coworker, classmate, or neighbor. Stand

gracefully for what is right and encourage someone in need. God has a plan. Seek it. Know it, and let it consume you to shine!

5. Illuminate for God's Glory, Not Your Own

This one hurts deeply, doesn't it? It's easy to let our service become more about applause than obedience. But we need to pause and ask ourselves: "Is our light drawing others to Jesus or us?" True humility isn't self-belittlement. It is a quiet confidence rooted in His grace. Grace that reminds us we were once in darkness too, and only now shine because of Christ within us. So, let us serve from a place of humble gratitude, not to be noticed, but to reflect the One who gave everything for us. When we shift the spotlight back to Jesus, our light not only becomes more radiant, but it glorifies Him.

So, as we learn to be the light that God has called us to be, we should ask, " **'Watt'** is our brightness? It's not a question of ability, but of our relationship and connection to Christ, the true Light. We don't have to strive to glow brighter by ourselves. Just stay close to the Source. His grace will energize us all. His truth will guide us. And His love will shine through us. Whether our light feels like a soft flicker or a radiant beam, remember: He delights in using you just as you are. So, keep shining. Not for applause, but for His glory. Because even the smallest light can lead someone home. And friend, our light matters more than we know. Shine on!

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