

The word "SPARK" is rendered in a bold, metallic, sans-serif font. The letters "S", "P", "A", and "R" are silver with a brushed metal texture, while the "K" is a solid, bright yellow-gold. To the right of the text is a stylized flame graphic composed of several flowing, ribbon-like shapes in shades of orange, red, and yellow, set against a dark background with scattered golden stars and light trails.

# SPARK

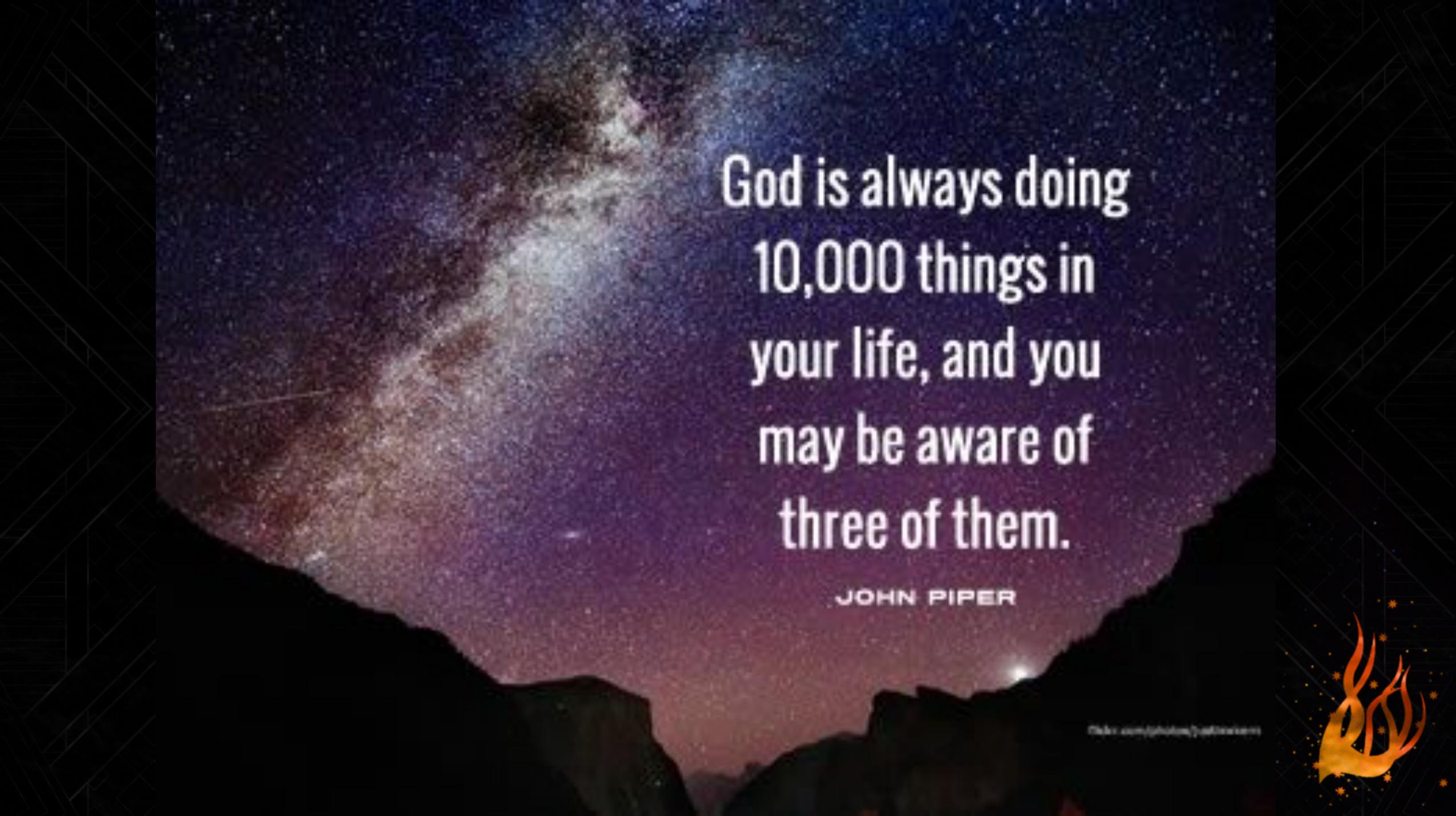
“Love in Action”  
August 30, 2020



## Isaiah 43:19

Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.



A night sky with the Milky Way galaxy visible, set against a dark background with silhouettes of mountains at the bottom. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

God is always doing  
10,000 things in  
your life, and you  
may be aware of  
three of them.

JOHN PIPER

<https://www.piper.com/>



# Where Did the Early Church Meet?

Acts 2:46 “House to house”

Acts 5:42 “House to house”

Acts 8:3 “House to house”

Acts 10:22 “Cornelius’ house”

Acts 12:12 “Mary’s house”

Acts 16:32 “Jailor’s house”

Acts 16:40 “Lydia’s house”

Acts 18:7 “Titius Justus’ house”

Acts 20:20 “House to house”

Rom. 16:5 “Prisca & Aquila’s house”

Col. 4:15 “Nympha’s house”

Phil. 1:2 “Philemon’s house”



# 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, <sup>10</sup> for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more,



# 1 John 3:16-18

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, *(action)* and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers *(action)*.<sup>17</sup> But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? *(action)*<sup>18</sup> Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. *(action)*



# 1 Corinthians 16:15

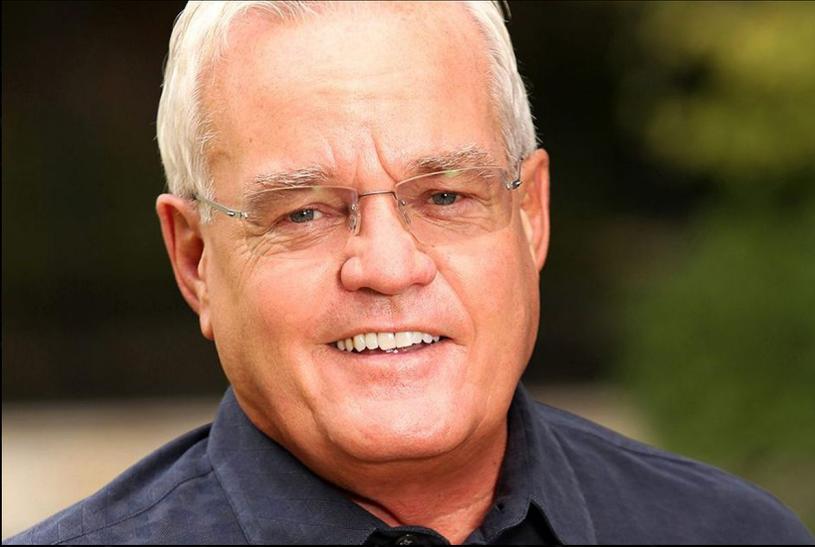
Now I urge you, brothers—you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints—



## Matthew 12:46-50

While [Jesus] was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him.<sup>48</sup> But he replied to the man who told him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?”<sup>49</sup> And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers!<sup>50</sup> For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”





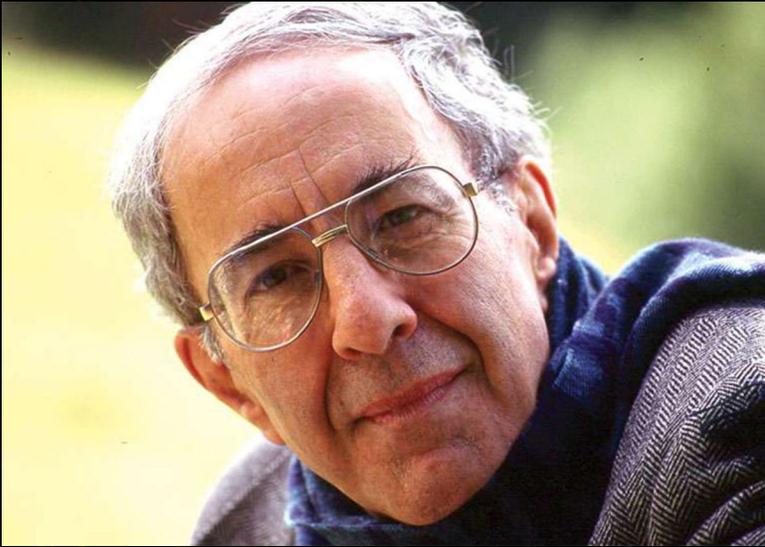
**Bill Hybels**

“There’s nothing like the local church when it’s working right. Its beauty is indescribable. Its power is breathtaking. Its potential is unlimited.

Whatever the capacity for human suffering, the church has a greater capacity for healing and wholeness.

The potential of the local church is almost more than I can grasp! No other organization on earth is like the church. Nothing even comes close.”





Henri Nouwen

“We are unified by our common weaknesses, our common failures, our common disappointments and our common inconsistencies.”





Randy Frazee

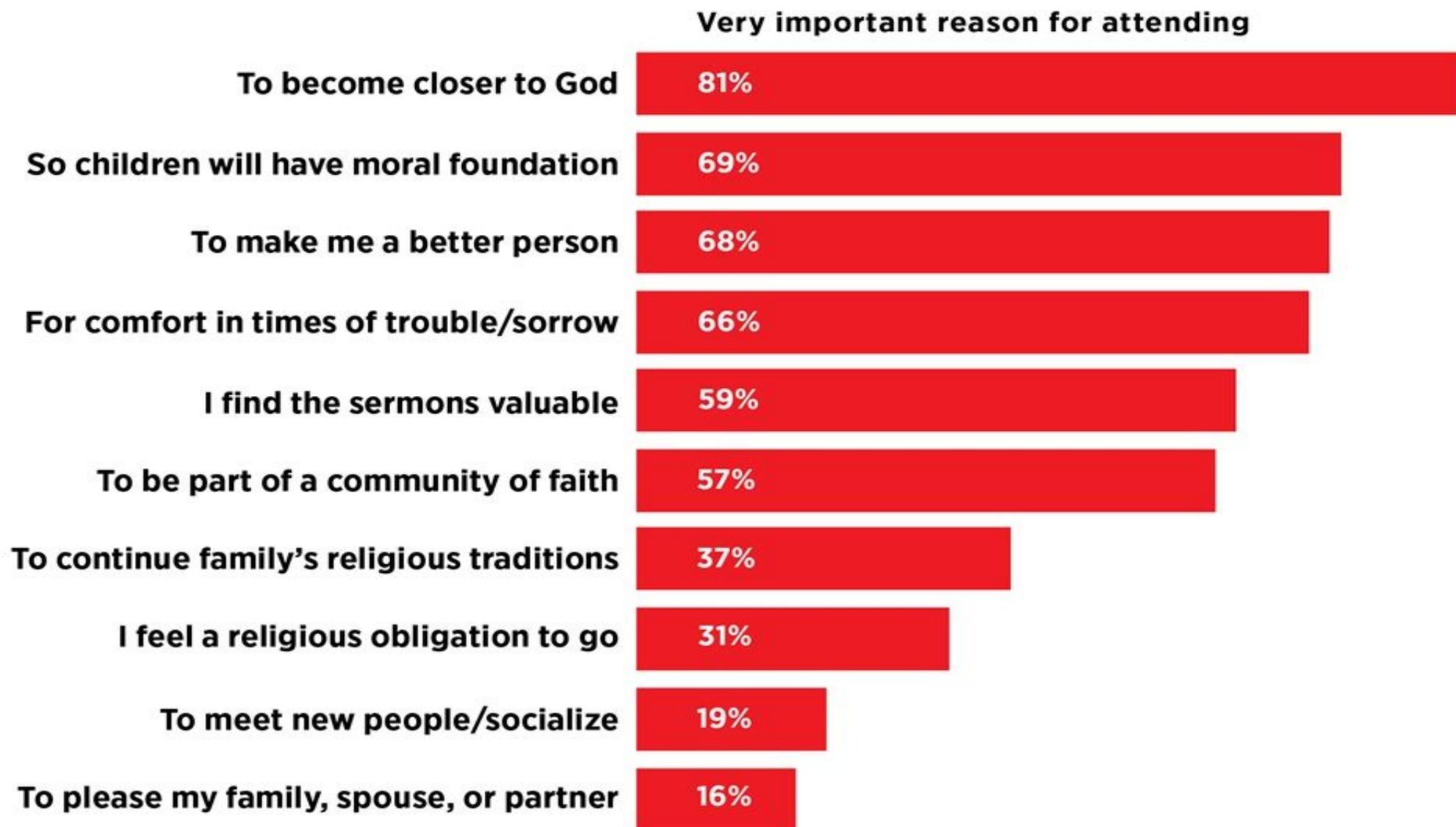
“The experience of authentic community is one of the purposes God intends to be fulfilled by the church.

The writings of Scripture lead one to conclude that God intends the church, not to be one more bolt on the wheel of activity in our lives, but the very hub at the center of one’s life.”



# WHY AMERICANS GO TO CHURCH

(or other religious services)



\* Based on US adults who attend religious services monthly or more.

Source: Pew Research Center

**CT**

"The [early] church exploded in growth, because the people loved being together. When you get a group of people together who genuinely believe something, and who really enjoy each other, it's such a contagious atmosphere that you can't keep people away from it.

People assume that smaller churches must have better fellowship and stronger relationships, because everybody knows everybody. But churches that genuinely love one another don't stay small very long."



## Isaiah 60:1-3

“Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.<sup>2</sup> “For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples; but the LORD will rise upon you, and His glory will appear upon you.<sup>3</sup> “Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.”



## John 5:35

He was the lamp that was burning and was shining and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.



# Matthew 5:14-16

“You are the light of the world.”



## Matthew 5:14-16

“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. <sup>16</sup> 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.



## Galatians 6:10

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.



# 1 Peter 4:8-10

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

<sup>9</sup> Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

<sup>10</sup> As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:



