



This Is My Time To Shine!



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Foundation Scripture: Isaiah 60: 1-3, Matthew 5:14-16

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Our foundation scripture in Isaiah 60:1-3 says *'Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.'* It reveals a fundamental statement that we need to embrace. God spoke through the Prophet Isaiah to the nation of Israel - 'your light has come'. Until then, the nation was being oppressed by her enemies, but all this was about to change with Isaiah's declaration. This is also true for us today.

'Your light' talks about your essence, the reason for your being, your significance and value, your illumination and those things that makes 'you' you. God says *'The days of delays are over! Your days of struggle are over – Your light has come! These are the days of manifestation.'* In Matthew 5:14, Jesus refers to you as 'the light of the world', but he also emphasized something profound – 'let your light so shine'. In other words, it's not such a big deal to be the 'light of the world', but it is important that this light is put to use – to shine. It is only then, that others will see the light and glorify your father in Heaven.

I challenge you today to jettison an average life, and discard 'doing business as usual' because your light has come. You cannot afford to live like the rest of the world – because you are the light in the darkness. God is waking us up to the reality of the season we are living in. Your light must shine 'brighter and brighter unto the perfect day' – there should be no dull moment in your life, going from one degree of glory to the next. You may ask 'What is the big deal about shining my light?' Here are the reasons...

- 1. The world is in darkness, and you are the hope of the world.** If you refuse to shine, the world will remain in perpetual darkness. There is a portion of the world, that you have been created to illuminate. There is no substitute for light-it's either light or darkness. The only option we have as believers is to shine our light – to sparkle, to flourish, to be revealed and to manifest. In Isaiah 60, the bible says 'darkness will cover the earth, and deep darkness the people' – the darkness is only as dark as you allow it to be. The existence of darkness is synonymous with the absence of light.

We live in the world of darkness of abortion, age consent, ageism, alcoholism, bullying, corruption, crime, debt, discrimination, drug abuse, economic inequality, family problems, gambling, gay marriages, gun rights, homelessness, homosexuality, hunger, immigration problems, injustices, natural disasters, population pressure, poverty, prejudice, prostitution, public nudity, racism, sexism, suicide and assisted suicide, tobacco and smoking problems, unemployment, urbanisation and housing problems, violence, war and terrorism – a

tip of the iceberg in terms of the expression of the darkness we have in our world today. It is your responsibility to turn on your light.

2. **You represent the hope of the next generation:** Your light must illuminate a pathway that the next generation will pass through. You are a model to the next generation. This is the way Joseph put it in Genesis 45:7 *'And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance'*. Your life is an answer to questions and a solution to problems. Much like a relay-race, you can't afford to stop until you give the baton to the next generation. Your light must illuminate the world so that the next generation will not fight the battles that you fought. Never forget that you are here for posterity.
3. **The brighter the intensity of your light, the more influential you become:** You were not created to be average, ordinary or inconsequential. You are a difference maker, a glory carrier, and a light bearer.
4. **You were created to shine:** By nature, light shines. Every environment in which you are must know that you are there. In the natural, a light that refused to shine in your home would immediately be replaced as it is expected to shine. So ensure you shine the light within you and manifest yourself. Some people, out of offence, have built walls around themselves and have thereby prevented their light from shining. They are unable to shine and nothing can penetrate the walls; this is a strategy of the enemy – refuse offence!

Let's look at some truths from Matthew 5:14: You are not designed to be hidden or to be under; your composition abhors this. You are born to be significant, to be relevant and to make a difference. To be hidden away is to be covered up, concealed or buried; to be limited, to lack progress, to be oppressed. The devil doesn't really mind what you do as long as you are hidden; existing rather than living. Life challenges may have tried to conceal you but you cannot be hidden.

The devil may also try to put you under circumstances. You however are set upon a hill; to be set means to be fixed and unshaken by the turbulences of life. The very same challenges that were supposed to bury you will lead to your promotion! The devil will try and throw challenges your way however your responsibility is to shake off whatever the enemy throws at you and step up. Again, you have been empowered, set in the candlestick to shine –you have no place under the bushel. The difficulties of life will not bury you; instead, you will take advantage of the challenges of life! I declare elevation and promotion over your life!

This is your *time* to shine – time is a unit of measurement. You are entering a new phase of your life, that you've never accessed before. You are becoming who God has made you to be. Ecclesiastes 3:1 says *'To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven'*. There is a time set by God for the events of your life to unfold. God controls time but is not subject to time. There is nothing that is random or haphazard about your life. To every purpose there is a time ordained by God. Having concluded the events of your life, God then permitted the beginning of your life to begin. Both the beginning and the end of your life have been settled by Him. This is why God is never agitated about what happens to you, because He already knows clearly the events of your life that must happen according to His book (Psalm 139:16). Every event is woven together to bring you to an expected end. There is such thing as the 'fullness of time' in God. We see this in Galatians 4:4 in the description of Jesus coming to the earth. From this therefore we can see that for every event in life, there is a time and there is a season. Once we have this understanding of how God works we can relax and refuse to be agitated.

God declares the end from the beginning – and the end is always glorious. Joseph's story is a good example. However, wisdom demands that you know how to anticipate and respond, rather than react to the times and season you are in, in order to maximally enjoy the blessings in each season.

Look with me at David's story and his response to a season in his life. In 1 Samuel 17, Goliath and the Philistines were arrayed against the Israelite army. David's brothers were in the army however David had been kept behind to tend his father's sheep. Periodically, David would be sent by his father Jesse to his three brothers at the battlefield to check on their welfare. On this occasion, as David arrived on camp, there was something different; Goliath was roaring murderous threats against the Israelite army. Whilst the Israelite army heard nothing but the

threats of Goliath and were immobilised with fear, David, heard differently; he heard an opportunity – an opportunity for a tax break and a step up the social ladder – marrying the king’s daughter. In your life, what do you hear? What do you see? I challenge you: Determine to see differently. You cannot afford to respond to obstacles in fear like others would respond. Every obstacle has the potential to become a launch-pad to your destiny. Remember God makes all things beautiful in its time (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

Briefly, here are six lessons from the life of David:

1. He saw and heard differently;
2. He refused to be intimidated (by the Goliaths of this world). He was determined to fight for his opportunity. He stepped forward and refused to interpret his season based on other people’s experiences;
3. He relied totally on God;
4. He believed in Himself; (Never see yourself through the eyes of your problem). Refuse to live an average life. Let your light shine;
5. He spoke what he wanted – David declared what he wanted to see (the end from the beginning); He spoke against his enemy to Goliath;
6. He overcame the enemy – He saw what he said. And eventually the whole nation celebrated the victory.

It is often said that the wealthiest place on the planet is the cemetery – a treasure trove of unrealised potential. In the genealogies of the bible we see many examples of those that simply lived and then died with nothing of significance to show for their lives. I challenge you to determine to live to make a difference, both in time and in eternity. Refuse to live an ordinary or inconsequential life. This is your time to shine!

