

Life surrounds us every day. Wherever we go, whatever we do, whoever we see, life is present. It envelops us in nature, in animals, and in the unique people who surround us daily. Life is not always perfect, everyday life is hard. It is full of what-ifs, uncertainties, trials and struggles, that sometimes we wonder if we can overcome them. But what gets us through the hardships? How do we get up and stand again? We look at life's shining, radiant joys and precious, treasured moments. We need to understand what life is and what we need to do with our own. We are called to be a light to the world.

Light is something that illuminates the darkness, brings clarity to confusion, and shows the path that was previously hidden. To be a light, one must be able to shine brightly. One way to shine is to let the goodness inside of you show exteriorly. Think about how good it feels to help an elderly person with the door and they thank you and give a genuine smile. Now think about how they feel, having someone show that they care and notice them. Treat everyone with Christian love, show people that you are here for them, and even if they do not take it well, or notice your efforts, you are still like a beacon to them. Goodness should not be kept inside to just light up your own world, it must go forth to others as well!

In a true friendship, friends are truly there for one another and in difficult times can lean on each other and be a lamp of warmth in each other's dark times. To be genuine, supportive, and reliable are more ways to be a light to others. In the story of the good Samaritan, which man would have appeared the brightest to the injured and beaten man? It would certainly not have been the priest, shining with false virtue, or the Levite, shining with pride. It was the Samaritan, an outcast, but a man radiant with true neighborly love.

Speaking truth is what sets apart people of integrity and people who are unprincipled. It takes great courage to stand up and do what is right, especially in the face of adversity. The truth and good morals you model, might just lead someone along that path, and you could be the beam of light that starts them on their way.

We never know how we are going to impact people. Our example is a witness to others, and the greatest thing we can do everyday is to be a light in this dark world. Christ says in Matthew 5:14, "You are the light of the world. A city seated on a mountain cannot be hid." Let us strive to be that radiant beam for others, to draw them to the beauty and goodness of God.