

# Better And Brighter



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**Luke 19:10** — For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

## Why should we share our faith with others?

### This is our calling.

**Matthew 5:13-16 NIV** — “Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You’ve lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

<sup>14-16</sup> “Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

**2 Peter 3:9 NIV** — The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

## People need Jesus.

**John 3:17-18 MSG** — “This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn’t go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person’s failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him.

## People want Jesus.

**Ecclesiastes 3:11 NIV** — He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart

**John 10:6-10 MSG** — Jesus told this simple story, but they had no idea what he was talking about. So he tried again. “I’ll be explicit, then. I am the Gate for the sheep. All those others are up to no good—sheep rustlers, every one of them. But the sheep didn’t listen to them. I am the Gate. Anyone who goes through me will be cared for—will freely go in and out, and find pasture. A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.

**John 10:10 NRSV** — The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

**John 10:10 NIV** — The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

**John 10:10 NLT** — The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

**Galatians 5:22-23 MSG** — But what happens when we live God’s way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; it only gets in the way. Among those who belong to Christ, everything connected with getting our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities is killed off for good—crucified.

### JESUS GIVES US...

Joy that overflows,  
Peace that subdues,  
Patience that endures,  
Kindness in action,  
Faith that prevails,  
Gentleness of heart,  
Strength of spirit.

**Ephesians 3:10 NIV** — His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.

**2 Corinthians 5:20 NIV** — We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.

## How should we share our faith with others?

### RECOGNIZE the moments God gives you.

**Psalms 37:23 NKJV** — The steps of a good man are [a]ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way.

**Proverbs 16:9 NIV** — In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.

### REFOCUS on the manner in which I live.

## We must be Positive not Negative

**John 3:16 GNT** — For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.

## Find Common Ground not Battle Ground

**1 Corinthians 9:22 NIV** — To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.

## Try to find Their Perspective

### not My Perspective.

**Acts 17:22-23 MSG** — So Paul took his stand in the open space at the Areopagus and laid it out for them. “It is plain to see that you Athenians take your religion seriously. When I arrived here the other day, I was fascinated with all the shrines I came across. And then I found one inscribed, to the god nobody knows. I’m here to introduce you to this God so you can worship intelligently, know who you’re dealing with.

## We need to practice Patience not Pressing.

**2 Timothy 2:23-25 NLT** — Again I say, don’t get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. <sup>24</sup> A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. <sup>25</sup> Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people’s hearts, and they will learn the truth.

## We need to practice Unconditional Love

### not Conditional Love.

### RELAY the message of hope to a broken world.

**1 Peter 3:15-16 NIV** — But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

### We share our faith because...

This is our calling  
People need Jesus  
People want Jesus

Recognize the Moments  
Refocus on your Manner  
Relay the Message