

and receive that freeing gift of God's grace and forgiveness that He has won for us. We can push back the darkness by being a lamp stand for Jesus, by being a city on a hill for the Lord. Today spend some time asking God to show you where and how you can be a light on a lamp stand or a city on a hill for Jesus.

Saturday — Jesus Transfigured and We are Transformed

For today's devotions please read 2 Corinthians 3:7-18, focusing particularly on verses 17-18. We are being transformed into Christ's likeness and our unveiled faces reflect His glory. This is amazing and wonderful! What a privilege we have been given to be a reflection of our Savior, God's Son. Today I want to encourage you to really press into thinking of yourself as being an image bearer of our God and a reflection of His glory to the people around us. Right now I work in a fast food restaurant and I can tell you that every day I see people come in who are down trodden by the darkness of our world, but I also see the expression on their face change when they are greeted with a smile and eye contact. Yes something as simple as being friendly and joyful can make a huge impact. When we start seeing ourselves and our fellow humans through the eyes of Christ we are not only being transformed – we are reflecting God's love. When we refuse to put on the mask or veil that says we have it all together, we reflect His glory. So be bold today. Thank God for allowing you to be an image bearer and reflection of His glory. Thank Him for transforming your life and ask Him to give you boldness to keep shining.



*Devotions for
the week of
February 11, 2018*

Begin each devotion with a reminder of your baptism by making the sign of the cross (put your fingers together and place them first on your forehead, then down to your stomach, then to your right shoulder, and end up at your left shoulder over your heart). As you do that, say the words, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen" Mark yourself with Jesus and remind yourself that you are His!

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This week's *Bring it Home* devotions were written by Rhonda Frerichs
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Monday — Jesus: Our Dazzling Light that Shines

Today's reading will be from Mark 9:2-9. Please take a few minutes to slowly read through these seven verses as there is so much to take in. Ask God to help you use your imagination and listen to Mercy Me sing "I Can Only Imagine" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_lrrq_opng. Try to picture yourself there perhaps as one of the three disciples, Moses or Elijah, or simply an onlooker. Jesus has been "on the road" with the disciples teaching, healing, restoring sight, feeding the four thousand, telling them about His imminent death, and the cost of discipleship. He takes Peter, James, and John away for some solitude on the mountain. They get so much more than just a mountain retreat! They get to see Jesus radiate the glory of God that is His as the Son of God. His glory shines so bright that it makes His clothes whiter than anything anyone has ever seen. The disciples also get to hear God the Father speak to them. What was your response as you envisioned yourself there? Could you relate to Peter who, being overwhelmed by these events, offers to build shelters for everyone? Or did you find yourself in more of a quiet state just taking it all in and feeling very blessed to be there? I don't know about you but I can relate to Peter's response. I seem to be more of a doer at times than just a receiver of Jesus' dazzling presence. As you end your devotion time today thank God for whatever He gave you during this time. Thank Him for including us in His plan for salvation and for being our God who dazzles.

Tuesday — Spending Time in Our Friend Jesus' Dazzling Presence

Today I want to encourage you revisit the Transfiguration story again, Mark 9:2-9. There is so much going on here! Jesus is transfigured, being glorified, He seems to be having a conversation with Moses and Elijah and a cloud envelops everyone, and God the Father speaks and the disciples get to hear their heavenly Father's voice telling them to listen to His Son. As you read this account of the Transfiguration again, try to picture yourself there. This is a holy moment and Jesus is sharing it with His disciples and friends. Think about this – if Jesus walked the earth in this space in time, you and I would have been able to experience this holy moment. That is the great, amazing, and dazzling truth about our God – He loves us so much He wants to include us in everything. Even though we were not present back then we are still blessed to experience Jesus' dazzling light in our own lives. Take a few minutes to ponder this and then listen to "Overwhelmed" by Big Daddy Weave <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BiGb14tTaH4> . As you wrap up your devotion time thank God for allowing you to live in His dazzling presence and for His willingness to share holy moments with you.

Wednesday — Jesus' Dazzling Light Shines Through Us

Today for our devotions please read 2 Corinthians 4:3-6. I find these verses to be so fitting for life today. It seems most everywhere you look in our world there is darkness and the god of this age has certainly blinded the minds of unbelievers. It's like the Apostle Paul was writing specifically to us. That is the beauty of God's Word being a living word. It is as applicable today as it was when it was written. Just like Paul was encouraging the Corinthians that God made His light shine in their hearts, so we can take this same encouragement. Jesus' dazzling light shines through us to those who are being blinded. Even though the god of this age seems to have unbelievers blinded we know that even the smallest of lights pushes back darkness and makes it flee. What an amazing privilege we have to shine the Light of Christ to those around us! Today as you go about your life try to remember that you are a dazzling reflection of Jesus and then pay attention to the difference this makes in your interactions with others.

Thursday — The Boldness of Moses and Elijah

For today's devotion would you please read 2 Kings 2:1-12 and Exodus 33:12-33 and 34:29-35. What remarkable stories! Both of these heroes of the faith have great boldness. Throughout Elijah's life he was obedient to God and God's dazzling power and might shined through him. Please take a few moments to imagine the scene at the end of this story. This must have been amazing to see, the Jordan River parting so they could walk through and then a chariot of fire and horses of fire comes down and swoops up Elijah in a whirlwind. I don't know about you but that would have left me speechless and maybe even questioning my sanity. Then we have Moses who after all he had seen and done in the strength of the Lord asks in boldness to see God's glory. And God does not rebuke him for asking such a thing nor does He deny him. God's Word tells us to ask, seek, and knock in Matthew 7:7-8. What if we had boldness like Moses or Elijah? Think about how we can change our world if we asked to see God's dazzling light shine through us. As you ponder this please listen to "Show Me Your Glory," by Third Day <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNlz-6aTSDI>

Friday — The Dazzling Light of Christ Within Us is Our Sermon

Last week in Pastor Glen's sermon and then through the Bring It Home devotions we pondered what it means to preach and how we are all called to be preachers, to be salt and light (Matthew 5:13-15). Jesus' light that lives and shines in us is to be seen by all – and it is! Every time we remember whose we are and then interact with others from that mindset we are reflecting Jesus' dazzling light. Do we do this perfectly? Not in this life, but the beautiful thing is when we fail we can immediately bring our failure and sin into the Light, ask for forgiveness