

***Nurses Christian Fellowship National Nurses Month Celebration 2022***

**Hope in the Darkness**

**Week Five: Hope in Our Witness**

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If you've been wakeful in the deep hours of night during a power outage or in an unfamiliar place where no light is visible, maybe you've experienced the disorienting anxiety and fear such darkness can provoke. Being in the dark emotionally and spiritually is like that, too. With ongoing darkness, we lose hope that anything can change, that the darkness can be repelled.

Our nurse colleagues, managers, and students we precept all grope for hope in the darkness, just as we have. The source of our hope—what pushes back the darkness—is Jesus, our light. His light within us is not just for our own well-being and eternal future. The light of Christ in us is a beacon illuminating the darkness so others can come closer to him, to gain the same hope we have.



**Hearing the Word**

Read and absorb Matthew 5: 14-16 (ESV):

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

<sup>15</sup>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.

**Responding to the Word**

- List all the ways we as believers are light to the world.
- How are you, a follower of Jesus, like a lit-up city shining from a hill?
- A light cloaked under a basket seems ridiculous. What is this analogy describing?

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- What could tempt or compel you to want to avoid beaming the light of life—Jesus—in your workplace?
- Consider all the ways you can “let your light shine before others” verbally and nonverbally. How can relationships with other Christian nurses fortify your light-giving?
- What are the results in verse 16 of shining the light of Christ to those around us? Use this verse as a prayer, asking God to bring about these outcomes: good works you do because of your faith and hope in Christ, and glory--full of light and praise--toward your Father in heaven.

### Application

Have you looked at city lights from a hillside or from the upper floor of high building? The sight can be beautiful, drawing our attention. This is how we, as bearers of God’s light, are a brilliant witness of hope in this world. Consider the significance of your role in being brightness that shines like a city, a lamp that glows in an unlighted house, to dispel the dark.

As witnesses of his light, we are connected to a source of strength and hope beyond ourselves. The power of our illumination comes from God; it’s not anything we can conjure or produce from within. Praise the Creator, God, for being our source and for growing hope and light in us as we get closer to him daily, weekly, yearly.

- If you follow Jesus, you’re a bearer of the light of life. Bless and thank God! You’re given the extraordinary opportunity to witness the hope you have so others can know Jesus and his light—and have authentic hope, too.
- Listen to the Holy Spirit. Who in your nursing sphere is stumbling, alone, hopeless in the darkness? Pray for them to move toward Jesus, the light of life.
- You’re shining like a lamp that gives light to those nearby. Continue asking God to present opportunities to show care and speak his truth to your hope-seeking colleagues. Ask God to brighten your luminosity as you meditate on the Matthew verses.



Karen Schmidt is a Contributing Editor for the *Journal of Christian Nursing* and works on NCF communications and social media. She describes NCF as an organization expressing the truth and grace of Jesus to nurses and nursing students—those who follow Christ and those seeking him. The *Journal of Christian Nursing* is a channel of communication to educate, strengthen, and inform nurses and students in integrating faith and nursing practice with a biblical foundation.

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