

## **Shining like Christ in the World**

We live in a culture hungry for authenticity. People are not simply asking *what* we believe but *how* we live. This is where Jesus' call to be "salt and light" (Matthew 5:13–16) becomes more than a slogan; it is a lifestyle. Salt preserves and enhances flavour; light dispels darkness and reveals reality. To shine like Christ is not about rules or rituals but about the outworking of grace in our everyday lives.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly..." (Colossians 3:16). "Man shall not live by bread alone..." (Matthew 4:4). These verses remind us that Scripture is not merely an obligation; it is nourishment. Terry Virgo often speaks of a Word-centred life—Scripture as a delight, not a duty. Christ-followers allow God's Word to shape their worldview and direct their steps. In a world of shifting values, the Word provides stability (Psalm 119:105). Begin and end your day with it. Let it frame your decisions and season your conversations. Like roots anchoring a tree, the Word anchors us so we can withstand storms and remain fruitful.

"Do not get drunk with wine... but be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18). "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..." (Acts 1:8). Christianity without the Spirit is like a car without fuel—present but powerless. Terry Virgo highlights the ongoing experience of the Holy Spirit: joy, power, boldness, and gifts. This is not just correct theology but living reality. Spirit-filled believers radiate freedom because they are empowered for service and holiness. Each morning, pray, "Holy Spirit, fill me anew today." The difference in outlook and courage will surprise you.

"Have this mind among yourselves... who emptied himself..." (Philippians 2:5–8). "Whoever wants to be first must be slave of all" (Mark 10:43–45). True greatness in the kingdom is not about titles but about towels—the willingness to wash others' feet. Humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less. This countercultural posture is deeply attractive. Look for unseen, unglamorous ways to serve—in your church, workplace, and neighbourhood. In a self-centred age, self-forgetful service shines brightly.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship..." (Acts 2:42). "By this all people will know... if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). Christianity is not a solo pursuit; it's a family adventure. Terry Virgo's Newfrontiers roots emphasise participation, not spectatorship. Christ-followers grow best together. The world recognises Christ by the love His people show one another. Commit to a local church. Be known, be accountable, be involved. Real discipleship happens in circles, not just in rows.

"We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen..." (2 Corinthians 4:18). "Our citizenship is in heaven..." (Philippians 3:20). Christ-followers are pilgrims passing through. When our eyes are fixed on eternity, our hands hold

possessions lightly and our hearts endure trials steadfastly. This perspective breeds resilience in hardship and generosity in success. Ask yourself regularly, “How does this decision reflect my eternal home?” Such a question can recalibrate priorities in a world obsessed with the immediate.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” (Matthew 28:19–20). “You will be my witnesses...” (Acts 1:8). We are not only saved *from* something but saved *for* something. Evangelism flows naturally out of joy in Jesus. Terry Virgo often reminds us: ordinary believers are called to extraordinary mission. Who could you pray for and reach out to this month? Invite them to coffee, pray for them, and share your story. Mission is not an add-on but the overflow of a transformed life.

These are not boxes to tick but fruit of grace—Word-filled, Spirit-filled, humble servants living in community, with eternal perspective, on mission for Jesus. As Paul says, “We all... beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed...” (2 Corinthians 3:18). We become like what we worship. The more we look at Christ, the more we shine like Christ. So let’s respond with worship and ask God for fresh grace to walk as Christ-followers in our generation. In a world searching for the real thing, authenticity in Christ will shine brighter than any marketing campaign.

### **Questions**

#### **1. Matthew 5:13–16 (“salt and light”)**

In what practical ways can you bring light into your workplace, neighbourhood or online presence this week?

#### **2. Colossians 3:16 (“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly”)**

What rhythms or habits have helped you let Scripture “dwell richly” in your life, and how have they changed you?

#### **3. Ephesians 5:18 (“Be filled with the Spirit”)**

How would your daily routine look different if you intentionally asked the Holy Spirit to fill you every morning?

#### **4. Philippians 2:5–8 (“Have this mind among yourselves”)**

Where might God be inviting you to practise hidden or humble service, and what might be challenging about that?

#### **5. 2 Corinthians 4:18 (“We look not to the things that are seen...”)**

How does keeping an eternal perspective influence your decisions about money, time, or relationships today?

