

To be a light, we need to shine — and we do it by showing others we care. Are you shining strong for Christ? Read on to see how you are doing.



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## What Kind of Light are You?

by Carey Scott

After ordering my morning brew at Starbucks, I drove up to the window to pay. The barista informed me that the driver in the car before me paid for my coffee. Wow! Really?

I've heard this was a common occurrence at this particular store, but I'd never benefited from someone else's hospitality. And my drinks are expensive! I gladly took the coffee and as I was about to drive away, the employee stopped me.

"I have to tell you why your coffee was paid for," she said. "The woman shared that a few weeks back she was having the worst day of her life and decided to get some coffee to help with perspective. She ordered the biggest and most calorie-filled

drink on the menu and when she drove up to pay, she learned you had paid for her drink."

I do drive a bright orange car, so I'm pretty easy to spot.

Anyway, this woman told the barista, "Tell the woman behind me that her act of kindness shined like a light that day ... and I needed a light."

I think I remember that day. There was nothing overly-spiritual about what I did. The Holy Spirit must have prompted me to bless someone ... and it happened to be her! I was thrilled to know it meant so much.

How we treat people matters. In Matthew 5:14, Jesus says, "*You are the light of the world.*" He did not say, "*Please consider being the light of the world*" or "*You might be the light of the world if ...*" Jesus simply told us we are the light of the world.

To be a light, we need to shine. We do that most easily by showing others we care in simple ways. What seems simple to us shines brightly to those in darkness because it's the light of Jesus.

As I've considered how to shine Christ's light to others, I've realized there are many types of lights. Here are a few I've discovered:

## What seems simple to us shines brightly to those in darkness because it's the light of Jesus.

### Motion Detector Light

This light stays dark until someone important or godly walks by, then it turns on. She may be dark for days, hours, weeks ... but when there's a need to impress, this light is a Jesus freak.

### Night Light

This light sheds some light in the darkness, but doesn't really define things. Actually, it offers little light at all. A "night light" shies away from sharing her faith, telling her testimony or talking about God. It's just easier to blend in. Maybe there's a little light here and there, but nothing too bright.

### Fluorescent Light

This light can be harsh about her faith. She might overwhelm others with her in-your-face approach. Some people want to turn this light to the "off" position.

### Spot Light

A spot light is quick to illuminate "issues" in others. She can be judgmental and miss seeing the whole picture ... the whole person. This light focuses on exposing things that need fixing.

### Seasonal Light

This light isn't used until the holidays, then it shines brightly. No one knows she's a Christ follower until Christmas, when she's on fire for Jesus. Once the season has passed, this light is unplugged until the next year.

God wants us to be warm, soft lights, shining year-round. These lights are not too bright or too dark. They are consistent. They bring a sense of comfort and easiness. They are gentle, inviting, calming and accepting.

How do we shine like that? Consider these tips to get started:

- Listen for that small voice that prompts you to act in kindness toward others.
- Look for the best in people and when you find it, share it with them.
- Lighten the load of others when you can by providing meals or helping with kids.
- Lift up hurting people and tough situations in prayer.
- Love others for who they are and where they are in their life.

Remember, YOU are the light of the world. Now, SHINE! ✨

Carey Scott is an inspirational speaker and writer who is honest about her walk with the Lord, stumbles, fumbles and all. She discusses life's issues with transparency and humor, challenging women to be real with themselves, others and God through her daily online devotional, "Let's Get Real" at [www.careyscotttalks.com](http://www.careyscotttalks.com). She lives in Colorado with her husband and two young kids.

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