

Lighthouse



If the image doesn't tell you what a lighthouse is, let Wikipedia help:

A lighthouse is a tower, building, or other type of structure designed to emit light from a system of lamps and lenses and to serve as a navigational aid for maritime pilots at sea or on inland waterways.

A lighthouse is usually tall, or built on a high point of rock or on the edge of dangerous coastlines. Even in these days of GPS navigation, lighthouse lights are essential across the world. It's there to be seen. Or at least the light in it needs to be seen (and 'on' – always helps).

This talk is about being a lighthouse for God. It's here because of a great talk that I heard which inspired me. This was put together by Dave J so the credit for much of this goes to him. And to his beard.

The Bible (the only thing definitely inspired in this talk):

John 12.46 – I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

Psalms 119.105 – Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path.

Quotes to get the noggin noodling

The evangelist D L Moody said this:

"We are told to let our light shine, and if it does, we won't need to tell anybody it does. Lighthouses don't fire cannons to call attention to their shining - they just shine."

The writer George Bernard Shaw said this:

"I can think of no other edifice constructed by man as altruistic (which means 'done to benefit humanity') as a lighthouse. They were built only to serve."

My Lighthouse - Rend Collective - river dance worship

Direct Youtube Link – <https://youtu.be/reAlJKv7ptU>

Another Lighthouse to break up the text on this talk



OK so this lighthouse picture is here for a reason. The reason is that we'll be using it for this talk. It is Berry Head Lighthouse in Brixham.

Likely the shortest - but also one of the highest (huh?!) And deepest!

There is a lighthouse in Brixham, Devon. It is called Berry Head Lighthouse. It's supposed to be the smallest lighthouse in the country at 5m tall. Yet it is actually the tallest because of the rock that it is located on which is 58m above the average sea level.

So here's the clever spiritual Bible bit... The lighthouse is small in itself (a bit like us). But yet it is the tallest because of the rock that it is on. Psalm 62.2 is one of many places in the Bible that we learn that God is our rock. So when we have faith in God and base our lives on him then we can grow to be a great lighthouse for God. But we're only ever as big as the rock we're on. It's the rock that gives the stability, the foundation and the height. So we can never get too arrogant about ourselves! Our job is to believe God, to have faith and to stand on Christ the solid rock (as Martin Smith sings). We also know from the Jesus in Mark 4 that even the smallest little seed can grow into the greatest tree if we have faith in God.

[Psalm 62.2 – Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I shall never be shaken.](#)

And get this. The spiritual point goes even deeper... Like the lighthouse.

The lighthouse was also the deepest lighthouse in the country because the light was turned by a weight falling down 45 metres.

[Ephesians 3.17 – so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love...](#)

The strongest trees have the deepest roots. To get strong and stay strong in God, we should have deep roots. Maybe not 45 metres as we'd be stuck. But spiritually it should be the equivalent of 45m.

How do we do this? By spending time with God and obeying him, hanging out with him, doing what he wants and living life for him. Honestly it's the only way to live.

Lumens

'Lumens' and 'candle power' are ways of measuring the brightness of light. You'll understand that if you have ten candles that are the same that are all lit, they will provide more light than if you just have one candle. At least that should be true. If not, you have faulty candles...

The lighthouse at Berry Head has a 'candela' (candle power) of 4,200. One candela is equivalent to the brightness of one candle. So although it's not got an electric motor, the lighthouse at Berry Head is like having 4,200 candles in it. Except it switches on more quickly than having to keep 4,200 candles alight...

Jesus has given us a simple job on the earth. The job is to be God's candle here on earth. It doesn't mean we put a wick on a head and light ourselves with a match. But spiritually, we allow God to fill us with his Holy Spirit light. And then we have to let the light out.

Imagine the world's most useless lighthouse. It would be one where the light didn't go on or was hidden. We should never think of ourselves as useless so let's reverse this... The power of God shines most bright through Christians who let his light shine through them and aren't ashamed to let the light shine so that it attracts people to Jesus. That's our job. God-filled people lighthouses.

Range of 19 nautical miles

The light at Berry Head has a range of 19 nautical miles. But it will be seen by boats closer than that as well as those as far away as 19 nautical miles.

Sometimes we're called to let the light of Christ shine out from us a long way. Some Christians go and serve God in countries away from their own countries. Others have TV ministries. But others of us do smaller but just as important light shining roles at home, in our community, our church, our family. And others do all kinds of lighthouseing in places in between.

At the end of time, Jesus says that he'll look at each one of us and instead of saying, 'well done good and successful servant' he'll say, 'well done good and faithful servant.' Success in God's eyes is being faithful, obedient and committed to him even in all of life's ups and downs (a bit like a boat going up and down on the waves but keeping its eyes on the lighthouse!)

One of the verses at the top of this talk says God's Word is a lamp for our path

and a light for our feet. Think about a lamp for a path – it pushes out a wide or long light. But a light for our feet suggests the light is a bit more focused, narrow and doesn't look so far ahead. God's Word (the Bible) helps us have both kinds of lights and be both kinds of lights in different times and places. Sometimes we see the big picture and sometimes we just keep on walking with God and putting one foot in front of another. God loves it when we do.

Shine - Matt Redman - a song to break up all the talking stuff...

Direct YouTube link – <https://youtu.be/0SrPqkEnhOA>

Trinity

Do you know who owns Berry Head lighthouse?

The Trinity Group.

Yes, you can guess what we're going to do here, right? Right?

Yes, as one of my old rhymes said; "God is the Father and Jesus is the Son. Together with the Holy Spirit, three in one."

You're owned, operated by and set alight by the Trinity – God the Father, through the work of Jesus the Son and with the power of the Holy Spirit living in you. What a team!!

Keep the fire burning

In the early days of lighthouses, they had a keeper who had to keep the lamp burning so that the lighthouse could be seen by passing ships. As a Christian, we have the help of the Holy Spirit in keeping the God light burning on the inside of us. But we can help and do our bit too. We obey God, we pray (this can be just saying God help, God be with this person, God guide that person, stop the injustice), we read and get the Bible in us (knowing the Bible equals knowing God) and we say yes to God.

Why?

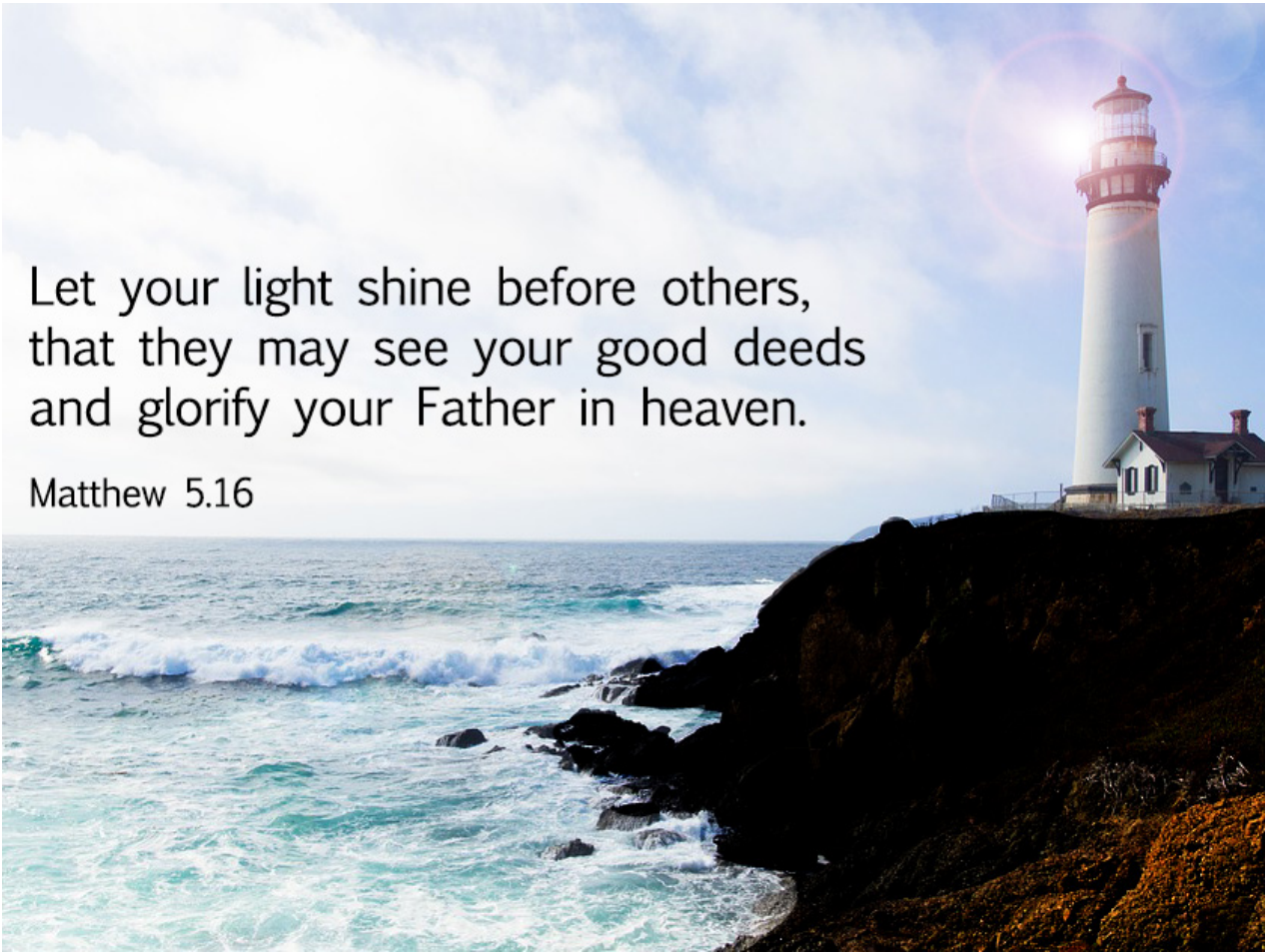
Well, the world is headed pretty spectacularly into self destruction. In some ways, things are getting better. But the human condition (the way humanity is) really isn't getting better.

People are lost, even when they don't think they are. They're lied to about what

brings happiness. They don't know there's a God or have been told a lie about God. They often don't have real hope and live for the moment as have little else. They don't know what's going on and can't understand life. They follow the crowd like sheep, even if the other sheep around them also don't know what they're doing.

People need direction and a light.

Crazy thing is that God has chosen people like you and me to be lights to point to hope, to truth, to real love, to purpose, to a future. Like a light, we just reflect the light to show people the way. And that way is Jesus.

A photograph of a white lighthouse with a red top, situated on a dark, rocky cliff overlooking the ocean. The lighthouse is emitting a bright, glowing light from its top, creating a lens flare effect. The ocean below has white-capped waves crashing against the rocks. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

Let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds
and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5.16

Good job on making it through to the end of the talk! Have a jelly baby.