

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Matthew 5:14-16 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Quote: “The conversion of a soul is the miracle of a moment; the growth of a saint is the task of a lifetime.”
Unknown

The Holy Spirit has given believers the ability to understand God’s Word *to make them more like God’s Son*. Christians reflect the faith, or the doctrines that are fundamental to Christianity, by seeking to live pure lives that they daily bring into line with God’s Word. David said it well in Psalm 119. “How can a young man cleanse his way? *By taking heed according to Your word*. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You! Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes! With my lips I have declared all the judgments of Your mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word” (9-16).

Christians can reflect the faith by guarding our heart and our habits with His Word. “Taking heed” means “to hedge about (as with thorns), to guard; to protect.”¹ We must decide ahead of time what “fences” we will put up to protect our purity from personal “lusts that war against our soul.”²

We can reflect the faith by acknowledging the Lord in *all of our ways*, and by striving to do all for His glory and the eternal good of others.³

We can reflect the faith by memorizing the Word of God in our head, meditating upon the Word of God in our heart, mastering the Word of God in our habits and mentoring the Word of God through our history.⁴ Long after we die, we continue to influence people. Paul summed up the focus necessary to reflect the

when he said, “*For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*”⁵ He called Christians “sons of light and sons of the day.”⁶ He reminded the believers in Ephesus, “You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. *Walk as children of light.*”⁷ Likewise, the Apostle John wrote, “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light*, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”⁸ In his third epistle, he declared, “For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as *you walk in the truth*. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children *walk in truth.*”⁹

Reflect the faith

The faith lived out in a life of obedience and dedicated service will be noticed when it is done for the glory of God! David wrote, “Those who fear You will be glad when they see me, Because I have hoped in Your word.”¹⁰ By God’s grace, may that be said of us! May it be our testimony that “we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”¹¹

A child of the great King of kings, I tread the noble path my Father-God has fashioned for each day. His name is a most sacred trust that I am called to bear—in thought and word and deed ne’er to betray. God *saved me by His grace through faith*, and bids me daily climb to heights where earth’s vain clamors grow more dim. From glory unto glory bright, His Spirit leads me on. My mind renewed, transformed, I’m more like Him.

As moral darkness descends like smog on a world that is becoming more vile and violent, may we who are trusting in Christ, the true light of the world, be beacons of the gospel! May we reflect the faith!

1 Strong’s 2 James 1:13-16; 1 Pet.2:11 3 Prov.3:5-7; 1 Cor.10:31-33 4 Heb.11:4 5 Phil.1:21-30 6 1 Thess.5:5 7 Eph.5:8 8 1 Jn.1:5-10 9 11 Jn.3-4 10 Psa.119:74 11 11 Cor.3:18