

Reading: *Is 60:1-3* Arise and shine for your light has come.....

1. God is closely in touch with the present social and economic situation in NZ and He purposes this to be a time for the people of God in NZ to shine brightly.
2. The darker the hour the brighter the light shines. If you drive past our home at midday any room lights left on, are not noticeable, but drive past at midnight and every light shines out brightly. This is an hour of need for many, and everyone shining for Jesus will be clearly visible.
Dan 12:3 Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the heavens.....
Is 9:2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light
Jn 1:4,5 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men, and the light shines in the darkness.....
3. *Jn 8:12* Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the Light of Life."
1Jn 1:5 God is Light and in Him is no darkness at all.
4. **As we abide in Christ we shine with His light.**
Mat 5:14 You are the Light of the world. You are a city set on a hill that cannot be hidden. You are a lamp on a lampstand.
2Cor 4:6 God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
Eph 5:8 You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.
God has made us to be light in this dark world.
How are we to let our light shine for Jesus?
5. *Mat 5:16* Let your light so shine before men that they may see your **good works** and glorify your Father which is in heaven. We shine by our **good works**.
Ac 10:38 God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and He went about **doing good** and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.
Mat 25:35,36 Jesus said, "When I was hungry, you gave Me food, when I was thirsty you gave Me drink, when I was a stranger you took Me in, when I was naked you clothed Me, when I was sick you visited Me, when I was in prison you came to Me."
 Target the needy, lonely, helpless, suffering people around who are poor and without food. Some churches bring food, produce, clothing each week to be distributed to the needy. See *Lk 4:18, Gal 6:10, Jam 1:27*. Find out about "Love Links".
6. *Phil 2:14-16* Shine for Jesus by **holding forth the Word of Life**.
Ps 68:11 The Lord gave the Word and great was the army of those who proclaimed it.
Ac 1:8 You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses unto Me to the end of the earth.
 Pray for your neighbours daily that they will find Christ. Pray for **opportunities, boldness and words to speak**. Use the "Jesus Video" - The Life of Christ as told by Luke. Offer to

visit neighbours and explain to them what Christianity is about. “Good News Down the Street” is a very helpful guide. Also “Christianity Explained”, and the “Alpha Course”.

7. *Jn 13:34,35* We shine for Jesus when we are serving **one another in love**, “By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, when you have love one for another.”
Gal 5:13 By love serve one another, *1Jn 2:10*.
Jn 13:13,14 You call Me Teacher and Lord and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. Love is expressed in serving one another, and doing good to each other. As followers of Christ visit, pray, help, strengthen, encourage, bless, support, assist one another and reveal God’s love in your life.
8. We shine for Jesus by **our unity, or oneness**, in our relationships as fellow believers.
Eph 4:3 describes our oneness, given by God.
Jn 17:21 Jesus prayed that we all may be one, as the Father and the Son are one, so that the world may believe.
Jn 17:22 Jesus has given us the glory that His Father gave to Him so that we may be one.
Jn 17:23 ...that they may be perfect in one, and that the world may know....
Eph 4:3-6 God has made us one in Christ and we are responsible to maintain this oneness.

Love is expressed by maintaining relationships in righteousness.

Forgive others their sins against you, *Mat 6:14,15, Mat 18:21-35, Mk 11:25,26*.

Release others from your judgment, condemnation and bitterness.

Hand the problem over to God to resolve. Seek to restore relationships, *Mat 18:15*.

Pray for those who have hurt you until the wound is healed, *Mat 5:44*.

If you have offended, another, go to them: *Mat 5:23,24*.

- a. confess your fault to them openly, no excuses.
- b. say, “I am sorry.”
- c. say, “Please forgive me.”

9. We shine for Jesus when we **go through tests and trials keeping our eyes on Him**.
Jam 1:2,3 Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, because the testing of your faith produces endurance, *Ps 34:1,2, Hab 3: 17-19, Heb 12:2*.
Mat 27:54 The centurion who crucified Jesus had crucified many before, but this Man was different. He did not curse and blaspheme. Every word He spoke was in love and godly purpose. He dismissed His own Spirit and died. Jesus was not a victim on the Cross against His own will. The centurion saw the light of God shining brightly through Jesus as He suffered. “Truly this was the Son of God.” During the Edgumbe earthquake in the Bay of Plenty, the Christian children at the local primary school went amongst the other children who were terrified, praying for them with the laying on of hands, and casting out fear in Jesus’ Name. **Hallelujah!**
10. *1Pet 2:9* The Lord has called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.
11. The world, for an increasing number of people, is like a dark night, at sea, in the midst of a storm. There are no stars, the waves are crashing, the boat is heaving, the wind is strong, and many are fearful. Into this scene God has sent you and me to show forth His marvellous light.

