



# SHINING THROUGH

A 5 PART SERIES

*You are **the light** of the world.  
A **city** situated (**set**) on a **hill** cannot be hidden.  
No one **lights** a **lamp** and puts it under a basket,  
but rather on a **lampstand**,  
and it **gives light** for **all** who are in the house.  
In the same way,  
let your **light shine** before others,  
so that they may **see** your **good works** (generosity)  
and **give glory** (praise) to your **Father** in heaven.*

Matthew 5: 14-16 CSB

**SHINING  
THROUGH**



# SHINING THROUGH

MESSAGE TWO:  
HOPE'S ANCHOR

*We turn to God  
when **bad things** happen,  
believing he could have  
**kept them** from happening  
in the first place.*

**SHINING  
THROUGH**

**ARE WE CRAZY?**

**SHINING  
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*The **disciples** as each one **was able**,  
decided to **provide help**  
for the brothers and sisters living in Judea.  
This they **did**,  
sending their **gift**  
to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.*

Acts 11: 29-30 NIV

**SHINING  
THROUGH**

**TURNED OUTWARD**

**SHINING  
THROUGH**

*It was about this time that King Herod  
arrested (attacked) some who belonged to the church,  
intending to persecute (torture) them.*

*He had James, the brother of John,  
put to death (executed) with the sword.*

*When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews,  
he proceeded to seize (arrest) Peter also. ...*

*After arresting him, he put him in prison,  
handing him over to be guarded by four squads  
of four soldiers each.*

Acts 12: 1-4 NIV

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*So Peter was kept in **prison**,  
but the church was  
**earnestly** (intensely) **praying**  
to God for him.*

Acts 12: 5 NIV

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**WERE THEY CRAZY?**

**SHINING  
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*All **praise** to God, the **Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
It is by his **great mercy** that we have been **born again**,  
because God **raised** Jesus from the **dead**.  
Now **we live** with great expectation (**living hope**),  
and we have a **priceless inheritance** -  
an inheritance that is **kept** in heaven **for you**,  
pure and undefiled, **beyond the reach** of change and decay  
(never perish, spoil or fade).  
And through your **faith**, God is **protecting** you by his power  
until you **receive** this (full) salvation, which is **ready**  
to be **revealed** on the last day for **all to see**.*

1 Peter 1: 3-5 NLT

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*So be **truly glad** (greatly rejoice).  
There is wonderful **joy ahead**,  
even though you must endure **many trials** for a little while.  
These trials will **show** (demonstrate) that your **faith** is genuine.  
It is being **tested** as fire tests and purifies gold -  
though your faith is far **more precious** than **mere gold**.  
So when your faith remains **strong** through **many trials**,  
It will bring you **much praise** and glory and honor  
on the day when Jesus Christ  
is **revealed** to the whole **world**.*

1 Peter 1:6-7 NLT

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*You **love** him  
even though you have **never seen** him.  
Though you do not see him now,  
you **trust** him;  
and **rejoice** with a glorious, **inexpressible** joy.  
The **reward** for trusting him  
will be the **salvation** of your souls.*

1 Peter 1:8-9 NLT

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*When **you** find yourself  
**asking** God (i.e. praying)  
to get **you** or someone else **out**  
of some **crisis** (i.e. trouble)  
that he could have **prevented**  
in the first place  
- you are in **good** company!*

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*Suddenly  
an **angel** of the Lord appeared  
and a **light shone** in the cell.  
He struck Peter on the side  
and **woke him** up.  
“Quick, get up!” he said,  
and the **chains fell off** Peter’s wrists.*

Acts 12: 7 NIV

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*Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening.*

*... he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying.*

*Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door.*

*When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed*

*"Peter is at the door!"*

Acts 12: 9, 12-14 NIV

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*"You're **out** of your **mind** (crazy)," they told her.  
When she kept on insisting that it was so,  
they said, "It must be his **angel**."  
But Peter kept on knocking,  
and when they opened the door  
and saw him,  
they were **astonished**.*

Acts 12: 15-16 NIV

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*Meanwhile, the **word** of God  
(**living hope** of God's kingdom)  
continued to **spread** (multiply)  
and there were **many**  
**new** believers (disciples).*

Acts 12: 24 NLT

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*It's why we have hope  
even when  
we don't have  
explanations.*

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THROUGH**

## 3 QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Has either your **faith** or someone else's you are close to taken a hit because of an **unexplainable event** (crisis)? Did your faith or theirs **recover**?
2. Why are we so prone to tether our **faith** in God to how **well** our life is going (i.e. **prosperity**)?
3. Read **Hebrews 4: 14-16**. What does the author encourage his readers to **anchor** their faith to?

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