

Light is a metaphor for being itself, which has form, definition, purpose, and meaning. It is separation from all things that are not it. When God created the world, he separated light from darkness, separated water from land, and separated man from woman. In doing these things He brought being to them, and that process included defining what they were not as well as what they were. In our lives, it is easy to sink into the primordial soup of non-being by doing whatever we feel like doing in the moment. Pursuing ease, we often give up the reality of who God made us to be. This week we will look at some practical ways to pursue light.

Day 1

Make a Schedule

Being means definition. Something that *is* has color, shape, function, purpose. Something that *is not* lacks these things. Something that has existence has been separated from the things that it is not, so choices must be made. In becoming real people, we must seek to make real in our lives the purpose, meaning, and structure of our lives that God intends for us. We must work to make God's plans to bless us manifest, and that requires giving our time purpose, meaning, and structure. It is easy to do what we must do, which is usually defined by others. But when no one is directing our time, what do we do? Do we seek to give our time structure and meaning? Do we seek to use that time to make real the kingdom of God in the world? Or do we do whatever we feel like doing, following our emotions of the moment to whatever end they lead us to? What does God want to do with your life? What does He desire for you? What kind of blessings does He want to lead you to? Make a schedule that reflects the ideal life that God would want for you, making His kingdom real in your life. Then follow it!

Verses: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; Psalm 90:12; Ephesians 5:16

Prayer Topics: Time, Diligence, Prudence, Understanding, Hope, Joy

Day 2

Get Organized

When you go into your garage, does it look like an episode of hoarders? When you look at your closet, or try to find a pair of scissors in the kitchen junk drawer, do you despair of life itself? It is time to get organized! Its time to make the area that God has given you a real thing, with purpose, boundaries, form, and structure. The first challenge, and perhaps most difficult part of organization, is to make decisions about your life. What do you need? That depends on what you will do. Do you have lots of long put off projects that are cluttering up your life? Will you do them? Are they part of your schedule? Or do you need to make some choices about what your life looks like, giving it form and purpose instead of trying to keep every option open? The desire to keep every option open is often just a way that we put off defining our lives, because it scares us to limit ourselves. Giving the physical areas of your life definition helps you to give your life definition. Spend some time this week in taking control of some of the physical space that you own. Maybe all your spaces need help, maybe just a few corners. Think about your life and what God wants it to be, and how the physical environment of your life should reflect that.

Verses: 1 Corinthians 14:40; Proverbs 6:6-11; Exodus 18:13-27

Prayer Topics: Order, Cleanliness, Love, Concern, Fruitfulness

Day 3

Evaluate Your Diet

Why is it that what tastes good and what is good for you are so different? Mostly, I believe, it is a matter of survival. God made us crave things that are dense in calories so that we would survive. The problem is, because we are rich, survival is not a question most of us face daily. Because of this, we must make decisions based on something other than what we desire or what tastes good to us. What kind of life does God desire for us? Does God desire for us to be healthy? Does he want us physically capable in the world? Does he desire for us to, while we are alive, be as free from disease and pain as possible? How will these desires that God has for us be completed or perfected? Are we required to take on a desire for ourselves that is equal to God's and to play a part in seeing it come to fruition? Evaluate your diet and try to see if it reflects God's desire for your health and joy. Are you participating with God in your blessing or are you trying to subvert his intentions for you? Are you pursuing goodness or just seeing where your desires take you? It is important to give reality to the kingdom by making God's desire for our health and joy real through minding what we put into our bodies.

Verses: 1 Corinthians 10:31; Genesis 1:29; Genesis 9:3; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Prayer Topics: Health, Work, Wisdom, Discipline, Joy, Love

Day 4

Fix Your Relationships

Do you have relationships that need some work? What could you do, if you wanted to make your relationships stronger, to accomplish some kind of blessing in them? Most of our relationships have labels. We are husbands, sons, fathers, or co-workers. What do those labels mean? Are we living up to the meaning of those words that define the nature of our relationships. Are we giving form, purpose, and meaning to the relationships God has given us by striving to meet His definitions and expectations of them? Most of the time, people act in the world based on what they feel in the moment. In our schedules, diets, and homes this can lead to a lack of definition, form, and purpose and bring chaos and uncertainty. In our relationships this tendency can lead to pain, distance, and a lifetime of challenge and regret. What does God want your relationships to be? How should they reflect his glory and goodness? How can you work today to make them more of what they should be? Bring the reality of God's being and glory to the relationships He has blessed your with.

Verses: Genesis 2:18; Proverbs 17:17; 1 Peter 4:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Prayer Topics: Using words wisely, Discernment, Love, Kindness, Patience, Helpfulness

Day 5

Seek Virtue

Who does God want you to become? People often think salvation is something that happens to them rather than in them. Meaning, we often think of going to heaven rather than heaven being created in us. I am not saying something mystical, but I am saying that we often think of heaven as a different set of circumstances rather than a transformation of our character. The truth is that unless we have the proper character, heaven would not be enjoyable to us. God's standards are perfection, and anything less is something not suited to His presence. Do we see this as a glorious calling or a tremendous burden? What things in your character are outside of God's definition of you? What things do not fit into God's desire to bless and glorify you and the world? What can you do to cooperate with the spirit to transform that part of your life? What can you start with today?

Verses: Romans 12:2; Proverbs 10:9; Philippians 4:8; Romans 5:3-5

Prayer Topics: Truthfulness, Steadfastness, Patience, Integrity, Forthrightness