

Light, Camera, Action!

How often do you hear people say “they could make a tv show or movie out of my life”? Many people have very entertaining lives. Funny stuff happens all the time, things you just wouldn’t believe happen all the time, drama happens all the time, they find themselves in suspenseful situations all the time....

Those are the keys to “entertaining” shows or movies. Some want comedy, some what drama, some want suspense, some want a blow your mind “I can’t believe it” ending.

What entertains people is different depending on their taste or even their mood at that moment. Sometimes people even watch things that wouldn’t typically interest them.

And no matter how bad you think a show is, there is someone that watches it. Someone likes it, someone connects with it, someone is captivated and affected by it.

You know what else people watch, connect with, and are affected by? The lives of others. More specifically, YOUR LIFE! Yes, yours!

Some people make the joke about making a tv show out of their life without the realization that they already have an audience. Every one of you already have an audience.

Some of you audience like you and are rooting for you. Some of your audience doesn’t like you and wants to see the drama of your life and see you fall apart. Some just watch and they don’t even know why....maybe they have nothing better to do.

But we all have eyes on us. People see more than we know and what they see may have a greater impact than we will ever know.

So today I want to talk about this movie or show that is your life. Get ready for Light, Camera, Action!

First, let’s look at Light. Notice it’s not lights, but Light. In the entertainment world, there are many lights on the scene of the film. In Christianity, there is only one light and that’s all you need.

There are 2 reasons that light is important in a production. Likewise the Light of Christ affects us in the same two ways:

1. Light allows YOU to see

It illuminates your surroundings so you are not in darkness. If you are going to have a successful role you have to see what you are doing. You must be able to see the script, see where you are supposed to go, see the reactions of the director.

How could you as a performer be successful if you can't see where you are going or what you are doing?

Many people today claim to know Christ yet they stumble around in the darkness trying to "play the part" but they can't see!

John 8:12

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

It starts with following Jesus. ONLY THEN can you walk in the light. Right here Jesus says that when you walk after Him, you have the light of life!

If you have the light of life, it means you can see what life really is! You can see where you are supposed to go, you can see the script (the Word).

No more wandering around in the dark trying to act out your part in confusion, trying to guess where the couch is so you don't run into it because it's dark.

Now many have walked around in the dark pretending for so long, that they know where the couch is and where the table is. They can walk around it no problem in the dark because it's their usual path.

Here is some light for ya, YOU ARE STILL WALKING IN DARKNESS, just because you have your part memorized, doesn't mean you are reading the right script!

Nehemiah said this referring to the account in Exodus:

Nehemiah 9:12

Moreover You led them by day with a cloudy pillar, And by night with a pillar of fire, To give them light on the road Which they should travel.

Why did God lead them by fire at night? So they would not be wandering around in the dark playing the part but so that they would have His light to see the road that they should travel.

It's so they can see not only their surroundings but more so that they could see HIS PATH.

2. Light allows YOU to be seen.

Just as in a production, there must be ample light on the scene so that the viewers can see what is happening. Have you ever seen a video with poor lighting? Sometimes you spend much of the time watching it trying to figure out what they doing.

Light illuminates YOU so others can see what you are doing....

Matthew 5:14-16

14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 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. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Jesus does great works in your life because He loves you, AND because He wants others to see!

When you represent Jesus, YOU are the light. That is us Christians today, Jesus is in heaven seated on the throne at the right hand of the Father in glory. His light is to shine through you!

A follower of Jesus doesn't try to hide the light from others. If you have the light you hold it up high so that it illuminates the darkness. Light drives out darkness. Darkness is exposed BY THE LIGHT.

Mark 4:22

22 For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light.

The light is put on you by God so that others can see you, your life gets exposed. But here's why:

Matthew 5:16 said - Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Ahhh, the ol good works! Let everyone see how great I am. Let everyone see the good things that I do for God and for others.....NO!

That mindset sounds more like darkness, self seeking, self exalting. The light is to shine so that others can see your good works and as a result, glorify God! We are to point them back to God.

Hey Billy, you are a really good person, you are so thoughtful, you help others, you are joyful. Billy should say "Praise Jesus, it is all because of Him. He has changed me and made me who I am today."

1 Corinthians 10:31

31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Our motives are always revealed. The light will be on us as believers, and it's up to us to point them to Jesus. Point them to the director, the one who gave you a marvelous part to play. The one who guides you where to go and when, what to say and how to say it.

Jesus put the light in you so that you could see where to go and so others could see His works in you.

Continuing on, once the light is set it's time for the camera. When the camera is rolling, all eyes are on you!

This is where people decide whether you are genuine or not. Now that you are in the light and people can see you, are you just playing the part or becoming the part?

Ephesians 5:1-2

1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

We are to be imitators of God. By imitator it does not mean something that looks like the real thing but is fake. You know like imitation bacon bits? Those things don't fool anyone. I could tell in the dark with my hands behind my back that they are not really bacon!

That is not what we are to be, we are not to imitate God while everyone in the world can tell from a mile away that we are imposters. To be an imitator of God is to be a follower of God.

When you are a follower of someone, you actually become more like them. You behave like them, think like them, speak like them. That is what we are to do!

Ephesians 5:3-7

3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them.

Don't be talking the Christian talk and then sleeping with someone you are not married to, living impure, greedily desiring more. Those are not evidence of light and they are not fitting for saints! Neither is filthiness (means obscenity), foolish talking, bad or inappropriate humor, fornication, idolatry. If these things are not exposed in the light you will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But let no one deceive you. Don't let people convince you that these things are OK because you said a prayer, you were baptized, you pray in the Spirit, or any other foolish reason. These things lead to the wrath of God. If someone tells you otherwise, get away from them, they are liars like their father the devil.

Ephesians 5:8-13

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

This is why we don't continue in those sins. If you let the Light of Christ shine upon you, you see where you are going. You find out what is acceptable to God. Have NO fellowship with the works of darkness but expose them. Kick them out of your life!

We are told to be an example to others. Not hypocrites, but examples. Now that the camera is rolling and all eyes are on you, people WILL critique you. Not might but will.

Those who like you and want to see you do well, will watch the show and cheer you on. They will rejoice when you rejoice and they will cry with you when you are sad. They look to you to learn more about Him.

Philippians 3:17 (NIV)

17 Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.

Others who are waiting for you to fail, those who watch the show to see you mess up.....they will be waiting. They will be ready to tear you down and expose you as a fraud and a hypocrite. It's why they are watching.

Titus 2:7-8

7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, 8 sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

Yet a third type of person will be watching with no vested interest not with you or against you. Maybe they stumbled upon your show. They watch from a distance and just soak up what they see. What you hope they see is the love of Christ in you, that darkness has been expelled by light!

Colossians 1:13

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love

To all types of people, you must be an example of Christ. You must let the light that shines on you bring Him glory. When the camera is on, make His name famous.

Finally, after the Light, and camera, it's time for Action!

Action is doing what you are called to do according to the script. It's simple...obedience. When the light is on you and the camera is rolling people are watching, they might even be DVRing it in their mind to playback later, all you have to do is be obedient to the script.

I know, I know, it sounds easier said than done. But I think we put most of that pressure on ourselves.

If you consider an actor, those who play another real person in a movie. Don't you think they know something about that person? Don't you think they probably did some research, read up on them, watched some film on how they act, in what manner they speak and carry themselves?

They probably don't just improvise and make it up as they go. That would be harder, that would probably make people think they stink or the person they are portraying stinks.

Matthew 22:29 (NIV)

29 Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.

Here is the lesson, don't let people think that you stink and don't give them a reason to think that Jesus stinks. Stick to the script. Study the model, Jesus.

Romans 6:16

16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

When it's time for action, do you obey the script? Every single person at any given moment is either obedient or disobedient to God.

Disobedience is sin. Sin leads to death.

Romans 6:23a

23 For the wages of sin is death

But obedience leads to righteousness! Righteousness is the condition acceptable to God.

John 8:51

51 Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death.”

If you keep His word, His commandments, (such as love God, love people), if you are obedient, you will have eternal life, you will never see death (hell). Even physical death can not overpower this kind of life!

John 17:3

3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

WORSHIP TEAM

Consider your life, the tv show that is your life.

First is there light? For some the answer is no, there isn't. You can't see the path you are to take. Maybe you are stumbling around in the dark bumping into things, or maybe you have faked it for so long that you know the path through the dark but the Holy Spirit is tugging on your heart telling you it's time for the light.

The light of Christ shows you where to go and it shows others His magnificent work that He has done in you.

For those of you who have the light, the camera is on. Who are you entertaining? Are you putting on a show for other believers, acting the part, doing what you know they expect to see. Have you been faking it?

Do people see a hypocrite when they see you? Do you post things about Jesus on Facebook and then turn around and tear someone down or intentionally post something that stirs up trouble.

Or are you pleasing the One who matters, Jesus. If you are living to please Him, not man, then you are ready for action!

If you are in this action stage, who are you portraying? Are you portraying a god or THE GOD. Are you showing people the love of Christ? Are you studying His Word and taking on the role of a born again believer that displays the fruit of the Spirit? love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

Who gets the glory? The actor or director/writer? You are only playing a part, God wrote the story.

2 Corinthians 2:14a

14 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ

