

Light the World: How Your Brilliance Can Shift the Planet

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What Is a Light-Bearer?

Had someone asked me what my message was prior to February of 2012, I would have told them that my message is that YOU have a message. I firmly believe each individual is here to share a message. Some do it proactively by writing books, speaking, teaching or consulting. Others radiate their message in the way they live their lives. It's just who they are.

I believe as disciples of Christ, we especially are here to share a message that God has planted within us. Your message is unique to you. You reflect Christ's light in a way that only you can.

Jesus said,

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16)

This is a foundational belief for me. I love helping people find that light within themselves and shine it out for others to see and be blessed as a result.

Even though I was passionate about helping others discover, cultivate and share their messages, I often became discontent, feeling as if something was missing. You may know that feeling: you're close, but you haven't quite found your sweet spot.

I was praying about this in February of 2012, and the answer came very clearly to me: "Telling other people that they have a message, is NOT your message. You have your own message. Take out a pen and paper and figure out what it is. Once you have that, you will have your focus and you will stay passionate about what you do."

As instructed, I started writing and what came was a list of people. On this list were people who have made an impact on my life. They're individuals with whom I resonate, who have taught me valuable truths,

inspired me, and taught me to love. I came up with a list of 20 individuals, six of whom are my own children.

Then, I wrote down next to each person what I love about them, what inspires me about them. As I did this, I began to see a pattern. Right off the bat, I saw a common theme of liberty. Each has taught me about some aspect of freedom:

- Freedom to Create
- Freedom to Change/break free of bondage
- Owning Your Own Power and Respecting Other People's Right to Own Theirs
- Freedom of Expression
- Freedom to Love without Limits

I was floored. I had no idea that I was being drawn to people with the common thread of liberty. It's actually quite ironic because if I would have been asked who symbolized freedom in my life, it would have been my father. "Freedom" is my father's favorite chord on the keyboard of life, and he's been telling me for forty-plus years that it's not just a chord, but a refrain that weaves through every song -- at least any song worth singing.

I would say, "Yeah, yeah, I see what you mean." I did see what he meant, but I was really thinking, "It's just your pet subject, Daddy." To me, freedom was my father's message. Not mine! Yet there it was, running like an underlying soundtrack in all my relationships, connecting the plotline of my life, actions and results.

Over the course of four days I studied the common characteristics and threads in my 20 people even more and discovered what they symbolize to me.

As I did this, two things happened:

- I gained a deeper understanding of who I am and what my own message is. What we see and admire in others, is what exists in ourselves.

- I came away with a clearer description of the typical person I'm passionate about serving.

Here's what I uncovered about both who I am and who I serve. I call it being a Light Bearer. If you're reading this book, I suspect you are one!

Light-Bearers Defined

- Courageous creatives who choose to be conduits of charity (aka pure love).
- Leaders who stand for life, liberty, learning, love and beauty.

So here's my "official definition" of a Light Bearer:

A Light Bearer is a wise, intuitive Inspired Creative who lovingly lights the way for others. A Light Bearer is passionate about assisting people in breaking free from bondage to ultimate freedom (whether the chains are of one's own making, generational or inflicted by others). They are courageous leaders for not only the rising generation but also for lifelong learners of any age.

Upon discovering this common thread among the people I love to work with and who have impacted my life, I decided to focus more proactively on assisting Light Bearers in any way I can. I vowed to be a more courageous light bearer myself and to continue to work synergistically with my fellow light bearers.

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound" (Isaiah 61:1).

While Isaiah spoke of the Messiah with this verse, and Jesus quoted it as He began His mortal ministry (Luke 4:18), I believe as disciples of Christ, we have the same calling. We are His hands and feet to preach good, to bind up the brokenhearted and proclaim liberty to the captives. Because of Christ's light shining through us, through our example and wisdom we can open prisons for those who are bound.

Find Your Own Message

Are you still wondering what your message is? Try this exercise for yourself. Write down the names of the people you admire most, who have impacted your life. You don't even have to know them personally. Then write next to their names what you love most about them, what you admire.

Then look for the common threads and themes. I put my people's photos in columns and rows and rearranged them until I started to see commonalities. For example, my matrix has five rows.

- Row 1: Courageous advocates of truth.
- Row 2: Inspired creatives who think outside the box.
- Row 3: Individuals who've taught me about respecting other people's freedom to choose and how to help people without encroaching upon their agency.
- Row 4: Lifelong learners who express themselves in beautiful, creative ways, particularly through music.
- Row 5: Glowing balls of love. For these folks, love seems to have no limits and others are magnetically drawn to them as a result.

There are other common threads going down the columns. The more I look at my matrix, the more insights I gain about the people I love to serve and who I long to be. Using the words and attributes I discovered from the matrix, I composed my definition of Light Bearers.

Here are the steps to try it yourself:

- 1) Make a list of the people you admire, who have impacted your life for good, or with whom you resonate. You don't have to know all of these people personally. For example, I had one person on my list I greatly admire, but whom I've never personally met or spoken with in any way.
- 2) Out to the right of each name jot down the characteristics you admire in these individuals. Also, write any positive themes they represent to you or lessons they've taught you.

- 3) Once you've done this for everyone on the list, go back and look for patterns in the words and descriptors you've used. Do you see the same words or phrases coming up with several people?
- 4) Jot down those words. Most likely, these characteristics or themes lie within you. You may readily see some of these in yourself. Others may feel like wishful thinking. Know that within you lies the seeds of each characteristic or theme. You can set goals around these characteristics to further develop these traits.
- 5) The words you've discovered represent the people you like to be around, and probably would like to work with. This can help you in deciding what types of people to add to your life, what types of clients or customers you want to seek, or what types of relationships you want to foster.
- 6) If you want, you can go a step further and create your own matrix. Take each of the characteristics or themes you found repeated in your list. Write those down the left-hand side of a piece of paper. Then out next to those words, write the names (from left to right) of the people who possessed these characteristics. These can be put in a table. Feel free to play with it, shuffle people around. Look for patterns. There's no "right" way to do this. As you do this, you may find further insights like I did.

Give it a try! It's a fun, enlightening experience.

Why Light Bearers Matter: The Coming World-Shift

Come with me to South Carolina during the Revolutionary War. Young Dicey Langston (www.DiceyLangston.com) is fifteen years old. She lives in a district of the state which predominantly supports the British (also called Loyalists). Yet, her brothers fight for the Patriot cause and her father was wounded in battle fighting for America's freedom.

Being a young girl, mingling amidst her neighbors, she often overhears plans Loyalists are making to harass Patriots or even attack their settlements. No one pays much attention to a young girl, so they don't guard their words around her. Thus, she is able to overhear important information and carry it to her brothers. She carries so many messages, that eventually a ruthless band of Loyalists known as the "Bloody Scouts" catch on to what she's doing and warn her father to take control of his "fiesty, meddlesome daughter," or they will take care of him and his family. When the Bloody Scouts take care of you, you are as good as dead and your house is looted and burned.

Thus, Dicey's father warns her to cease her activities for the family's safety. Not long after this, Dicey overhears that the "Bloody Scouts" are going to attack the Elder Settlement at Little Eden, South Carolina at dawn. Her brother James is stationed at this settlement. Knowing she can't inform her father and trusting no one else with the message, Dicey sets out on foot in the middle of the night, crosses a swollen river, and nearly drowns. Finally, she makes it to the Elder Settlement in time to warn her brother James so that he and his men can alert the settlement. When the Bloody Scouts arrive the next morning, the Elder Settlement has been evacuated.

On multiple occasions, Dicey courageously faced the enemy, even saving her father by throwing herself in front of him when he was held at gunpoint. Her courage and patriotism has inspired me greatly as her 4th great-granddaughter. She has taught me much about the difference that one person can make. One individual can change the world for the better and affect lives for centuries to come. Thousands honor Dicey as their grandmother and can trace their roots back to her through one of her 22 children. Not only that, but everyone descended from the survivors of the Elder Settlement owe their very existence to this 15-year-old girl.

During the Revolutionary War, only about three percent of the population was actively involved in the fight for freedom. The rest didn't care or were even for the British. Perhaps this is why Samuel Adams said, "It does not require a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless minority keen to set brush fires in people's minds."

As a Light Bearer you can be among those who set brush fires in people's hearts and minds!

A friend sent me a CD called, "Freedom Matters" by Oliver DeMille (www.oliverdemille.com). In it he talks about a coming world shift. Approximately every century, a nation makes a shift either toward freedom or toward force. In 1776 we had a Freedom Shift in America. In 1913-1936 we experienced a Force Shift with the implementation of the Federal income tax, the Federal Reserve, the change in the election of Senators and finally the redefinition of the general welfare clause.

DeMille has studied nations and the last 3,000 years of history, and says we're in line for a coming shift — a world scale one rather than just a national one due to the increasing global nature of our technological society.

Will we experience a force shift or a freedom shift? The momentum, DeMille claims, is toward a force shift. But he also says there's much hope for a freedom shift. In any shift, 95-97% of the people are not even involved. They simply don't care. This leaves 3-5% of the populace to make things happen, and that number is split between the people wanting more force and those wanting more freedom. So, in essence, if we want a Freedom Shift, we only need to comprise about 2.5% of the population.

Seems doable — especially with the rising interest in Liberty in this country. DeMille says three important choices must be made by 2.5% of the population in order to insure a Freedom Shift.

- 1) We need more entrepreneurs.** Historically nations with a solid base of entrepreneurs experience freedom. Or if force is imposed on them, it doesn't last long. Entrepreneurship and Slavery do not co-exist.
- 2) We need more voracious readers and independent thinkers who get involved in the fight for freedom.** You can't be a nation of sheep believing everything you see in the media or read in tabloids and be free for long. People who read voraciously tend to think more independently and thus value freedom more.
- 3) We need more tribal leaders.** A tribal leader is someone who leads other people with similar interests. But tribes go beyond interests and niches. DeMille explains, "When your relationships with one person or more in a given niche reach the point that you deeply care about these people, and they about you, you are part of a new tribe." (Oliver DeMille, "FreedomShift", Kindle Location 2105)

What I loved about the CD is that it explained so much about what I've been feeling the compulsion to do for the last decade — to help build entrepreneurs and to foster and promote thought leaders (aka tribal leaders).

I believe it's critical that Light Bearers see the big picture of where we're going, what we're doing to impact the world. If you're reading this, you have a desire to change the world. You may have a message, a truth, or a system that you feel compelled to share. Perhaps, you're so excited about what other people are coming up with that you are going and learning from various thought leaders. You're piecing things together.

I want to assist you as a Light Bearer to understand what's happening on a global scale. This is what has come to me through research, experience and study. You may see some metaphors that sound familiar or you may not. It's exciting to see what is happening on this planet. In this book, I'll be sharing what I've learned so far, and I hope you'll share with me what you're seeing as well. I know there's more to this picture, and I'm always open to learning from new people, ideas and perspectives.

Let me relate an analogy that will convey what I believe is happening in the world today and why Light Bearers are so significant.

Imagine, if you will, a tree in an open meadow. This tree has white, sweet, beautiful fruit on it. The tree represents the love of God. On the other side of the field is a large and spacious building with ornate doors and lots of windows. It's floating mid-air. This building represents the pride of the world. It includes the philosophies of men, and everything man has come up with to achieve power and gain.

Next, imagine a path meandering through a winding, wilderness terrain that leads to the tree. Alongside this path is a rod of iron that one could hang onto to stay on the path. It represents the Word of God. There are mists of darkness that weave across the path, making it difficult to see or to travel. There are also side roads that someone could get lost on that might take them over cliffs, onto jagged rocks, or lead them over to the spacious building.

This is a metaphor for what is happening in the world today. There are people along the path leading to the tree who are trying to decide where to go. Some people are getting lost in mists of darkness and sidetracked off onto dangerous paths. Others see the building and head off toward it with great purpose and direction.

Still others hold to the rod of iron (Word of God) and stay on the path. Others get lax, let go of the iron rod and slip off into the mist of darkness.

I'd heard this metaphor many times over my life, but a few years ago, I had an insight around it. It was as if the Lord were speaking to me saying, "The people along the path and in the wilderness cannot see Me. But they can see you." The mists of darkness are obstructing their view and they can't see Christ or the tree. But they can see you and me! So, what if there are people along this path holding onto the rod with one hand and lifting a lamp with the other? What if there are kind souls lighting the way, illuminating the path?

All along the path, there are people who are saying, "Stay on this path. Go to the tree, not to the building. The building is going to fall. It's hanging up in the air and eventually it will fall. It lacks a sure foundation."

So these light-bearers are who we are. We are holding up a light saying "Go to the tree. Don't go to the building." But other people are using a lot of the same tools that we use (like law of attraction, law of cause and effect, energy work, etc). The tools are good. They are useful, but like any tool (like television or the internet) they can be used for good or evil. There are other people set out along the path and in the mists of darkness who are using these tools to guide people to the building. Using these tools they show people how to go after the pride of their hearts, to seek power and gain -- all of which are overflowing from the great and spacious building. These people often use force (or governments) to accomplish their objectives.

So while the Light Bearers use tools to lead people to the Love of God, other people use them to guide people to the Pride of the World.

It doesn't take a whole lot of Light-Bearers to change the world. It may be the 2.5% that Oliver DeMille mentioned or it could be even less. If you look at the story of Gideon in the Old Testament, you see that God only needs a small number of people to work a miracle. Gideon had gathered an army to fight the Midianites and the Amalekites. God told him he had too many people and to tell any who were fearful or afraid to go home. Twenty-two thousand people left, leaving ten thousand.

At this point, the Lord told Gideon he still had too many. The people came to a body of water and the Lord told Gideon to divide the people who got down and lapped the water up like a dog from the people who knelt and lifted the water in their hands to drink. He told Gideon to send home the

ones who lapped it up and keep the remaining. This left 300 men to go against the nations of the Midianites and Amalekites. Through miraculous means, Gideon's 300 (1% of his original army) were able to defeat them.

Note the two characteristics of the people through whom the Lord chose to work His miracle. They were fearless and they were alert. These two characteristics are significant when we set our feet on the path to being a Light Bearer. It takes courage to put yourself out there, to be different, and to stand with integrity in the face of opposition. It also means we have to wake up and see things that the masses do not see. Being alert and aware are key characteristics of Light Bearers.

As we develop these characteristics, we may be few, but with the Lord on our side, we can work miracles!

For the full book, visit <http://www.DestinedForFreedom.com>