

**Simple Gifts.** Look for “Simple Gifts” in our monthly newsletter. These devotions emphasize that stewardship is “not simply a function of doing business in the local congregation,” but “an act of worship” that flows from what God has done for us in Jesus. With titles such as “The Gift of the Gospel” and “God’s Gift of Life,” they are based on the theme of “gift.” We pray that you will be enriched by God’s Word shared in “Simple Gifts.”

## The gift of light

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you” (Isaiah 60:1-2).

LIGHT. It was the very first thing the Creator spoke into existence. We marvel at the way He created it. But today it is important that we contemplate just what a simple, yet profound gift light is for us.

Did you know that without light there would be no life on this planet? That is significant. The light that shines on our planet interacts with the green plants all around the globe, and the result is the production of oxygen. No oxygen, no breath.

No breath means no life. Like all things in our wonderful creation, it all ties together.

Light is also a key gift that our Lord gives us in our spiritual life. Without the light that is Jesus, we too would, as Paul says in Ephesians 2, “be dead in our trespasses and sins.” Sin is darkness and death. Jesus is the light of life.

In Jesus, this light has shined upon us. Our sin is exposed. Our death is deserved. But as the light of life pierces the darkness in which we are entombed, one very simple, yet truly profound, gift is given. His glory shines upon us! His love shines upon us, and we are given what we don’t deserve – life!

That light doesn’t stop with us either. How we use this gift of light for the sake of our neighbor also reveals God’s glory! As we consider this simple gift of light, we pray that the Holy Spirit uses that light to show just how good our Lord has been to us and how He is calling us to respond. This is all part of stewardship for which we have been made and redeemed. As His light shines on us, we are created to reflect it to those around us in what we say, what we do, and how we live! Simple gifts... yet profound results!

### PRAYER

Gracious Lord, as Your light shines on us in the Light of the world that is Jesus, so let Your light shine in and through us today and every day. Give us the grace to identify and use the simple gifts You call us to share today and every day. Amen.

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