

## Matthew 15:8 (MSG)

***These people make a big show of saying the right thing, but their heart isn't in it.***

Fourth of July was just last week, and as we watched and enjoyed the firework shows, think of this. Some people come into the church like a firework show or a skyrocket. These are the ones who initially jump in and want to get involved right away and have so many plans for the church, and they make a big show of themselves like the flashing light of a skyrocket or firework show. Everyone who sees them seems to be in awe of them and what they do. But soon, they fizzle out and will leave the church they are in and go to another church to make a show there and to awe the people with their show, that lasts a very short time as they hop from church to church.

Remember Jesus told us that,

† ***Matthew 5:14-16 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.***

Buy notice when Jesus said this, that He was not referring to us as being a skyrocket as that light, and to have everyone to be in awe of what we can do in the church, or even outside the church. Because a skyrocket is up there in the air for all to see, but how long does it last, maybe five or ten seconds in the air, and when it burns out, it leaves people wanting another show?

But as Jesus talked about us being a light, He says that we are a lamp for all to see ***“on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house”*** but a lamp is not a quick show, a lamp or a light in our homes and churches keeps shining for a long time and it's not for the purpose of being a show, but it is so people can find their way through this dark world. When you go into a house with the lights on, you never look at the lamp, but rather we look at what we can see because of the lamp. When we share God's word and bring the light of the gospel to others, people are not in awe of us as that light, but what they see (the truth of God's word) that we bring to them.

I say this so that we can be cautious of those who come into the church, seeming to be on fire for the Lord, but really all they want to do is make a show of what they can do, not what God is doing through them. Unfortunately, I have seen this many times throughout the years in the church, and it's heartbreaking to see them do this, because it does not encourage the people in church, but rather, it discourages them.

But we too have to be careful, because we can be like that at times, where we are all excited about something, and start to go in full force, yet fizzle out after a short time, and usually we do because even though it may have been from the Lord, we start to take the reigns from the Lord

and think, "I got this God." So when the Lord let's us take over instead of His Spirit working through us, that's when we fail and get discouraged. Or sometimes it is because we want to do it all, instead of allowing others to help us out. I think of Moses who went through this at one point, and he was so discouraged and burnt out, that he was ready to throw in the towel. Yet God showed him that he just needed help, which once God brought those men to help him, Moses was revived and kept on keeping on.

† **Numbers 11:14-17** *I am not able to bear all these people alone, because the burden is too heavy for me. If You treat me like this, please kill me here and now--if I have found favor in Your sight--and do not let me see my wretchedness!" So the LORD said to Moses: "Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of meeting, that they may stand there with you. Then I will come down and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone.*

Maybe you have felt burnt out lately, it could be because you have been trying to do thing on your own, or not allowing the Spirit to work through you, as you try to do ministry of your own strength, or it could be that you need to take a break for a short time and get refreshed. After all, didn't Jesus take time off by Himself with God to get refreshed. If Jesus did, what makes us think that we don't need it too.

So, let's be a light shining in this dark world, not a light show, but a light so that all will see and glorify our Father in heaven!

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

† **Psalms 119:105 (MSG)** *By your words I can see where I'm going; they throw a beam of light on my dark path.*

† **Luke 1:78-79 (NLT2)** *Because of God's tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace."*

† **Ephesians 4:1 (MSG)** *In light of all this, here's what I want you to do. While I'm locked up here, a prisoner for the Master, I want you to get out there and walk—better yet, run!—on the road God called you to travel. I don't want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don't want anyone strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere.*