



*In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Abba, who is God in heaven.*

*Matthew 5:16*

As I write this devotional it is actually the Day of Epiphany and so we begin the Season of Epiphany, a season in which we hear stories of God breaking through into our world, stories of people encountering Jesus, and stories of the descending of the Holy Spirit. The primary image associated with the Season of Epiphany is “light.” As I contemplated the verse of scripture above, I couldn’t help but think about the funeral I preached on Monday for Charlie Young. I knew Charlie and years ago shared in ministry with him.

The reason Charlie came to my mind is the phrase, “so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Abba, who is God in heaven.” I titled my sermon, “The Gospel According to Charlie: Live Your Faith!” You see, Charlie didn’t just talk about his faith, he lived it. One of the many examples was that as Charlie neared retirement he realized he had a large number of vacation days accumulated. So, he made a plan to take one day off a week and go to the church where he fielded phone calls and walk in appointments with people who were in desperate need. He would help them get services, necessary resources to purchase prescriptions, food, arrange for lodging or to pay their utility bills, and a whole host of other things. Charlie did this ministry week after week with deep compassion.

As we step into this Season of Epiphany, I wonder. What is the Gift of the Spirit that God has anointed you with? Can you see that gift as your light? If so, what is your light? How will you let your light shine before others so that people seeing you will give glory to our Abba who is in heaven? Now, I don’t know if you have made any New Year’s Resolutions. If you have, I commend you and pray that you will be able to stay the course and that your resolutions will help you, like Charlie, live your faith in the days ahead. If you haven’t made any resolutions, I encourage you to take some time and reflect on the questions I have raised above, and then let your particular light shine however and whenever the opportunity presents itself.

By so doing, as we live through this year, whatever it brings, we will be a people filled with God’s light and fill the world with God’s light. Can you imagine living in a world like that? I pray for all of us that it may be so.

*Holy One, shine your light in us and through us so that together we may fill your Creation with Your light. Amen.*

