



Four Faith: Vision 2011

Lifestyle or Light-Style?

- 1-Faith for Life: What I Stand On
- 2-Faith for Life Style: How I Live**
- 3-Faith for Ministry Life: How I Serve
- 4-Faith for Missional Life: How I Witness

- Lifestyle comes from the world.
- Light-style comes from the Word.
- What does it take to be the light of the world?
- Do we really believe that the reward found in Christ is worth the risk of following Him?

Introduction: In the last message we suggested four things to do this year, 'read with passion,' pray with faith,' 'give with joy,' and love without partiality.' These four things help equip us to 'live the Christian life.' But just what does that Christian lifestyle look like?

1. A Life Characterized by **LIGHT** *Mat 5:16-16*

Who is imitating who? In many cases the church looks more like the world than the church. When Israel adopted the lifestyle of the pagan nations around them, their own nation was weakened.

Light dispels the darkness! *John 1:4-5* "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has NOT overcome it." [ESV]

2. A Life Characterized by **CALLING** *Mat 10:1*

The upward call: Phil 3:14 "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." 1 Pet 2:9 "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

3. A Life Characterized by **POWER** *Mat 10:1*

You are authorized: The word here is 'exousia,' meaning rightful, actual and unimpeded authority (power over) to act. (See also *Matt 5:8-13*) According Acts 1:8 we are also given enabling power 'dynamis' (strength-energy) to be witness to the end of the earth.

4. A Life Characterized by **GOING** *Mat 10:7*

As you go: This is a mandate for light-style evangelism. Where ever you go we are to be living out and speaking out and doing the gospel. In verse :1 Jesus gave them the authority to do the work of verses :7-8. This is the work of the Great Commission *Matt 28:19-20*!

5. A Life Characterized by **GIVING** *Mat 10:7-8*

Give light and life: *Acts 3:6* "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." This verse literally says, "You received without cost; give without charge." Freely we received God's love and freely we should give it away! *Gal 5:14*

6. A Life Characterized by **DISCERNMENT** *Mat 10:16*

Shrewd and innocent: The two qualities are both vital for disciples, but must be in balance. Shrewdness without innocence is cunning, and innocence without shrewdness is ignorance. When the two are in balance Jesus' followers demonstrate both foresight and courageous trust in God.

7. A Life Characterized by **SACRIFICE** *Mat 10:39*

The widows mite: *Luke 21:3* "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

Will you follow Him? The NLT translates *Mat 10:39* the best, "If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it." When Peter and his brother were called, "They immediately left their nets and followed Him." *Mark 1:18*

Matthew 5:14-16 (KJV)

14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15 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.

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 10 (KJV)

1 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.