

## AWAKEN

God awakens us so that we can awaken others.

### Do you believe?

“Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him...”

John 11:45a (ESV)

**Life Application:** People will believe in Jesus because of what He has done in us.

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:13-16 (ESV)

### What's our Mission?

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

**Life Application:** We were saved to be sent! Our awakening is not just for us but also for those around us.

**Reality:** There are a lot of people who memorize these verses of Matthew 28:18-20. Unfortunately, fewer people live them out. Jesus basically says to His followers, all that I have taught you, all that I have shown you, all that I have done for you has been for this purpose – so that you might do the same for others. That is OUR MISSION... that others might be set free!

The MISSION becomes ours when we realize...

1. The reality that is established. “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me [Jesus].” (v.18)
2. The responsibility that is given. “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” (v.19)
3. The reassurance that is provided. “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (v.20)

### What are the obstacles?

- **Fear?**

“...for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of **power and love and self-control**.” 2 Timothy 1:7 (ESV)

- **Shame?**

“For **I am not ashamed of the gospel**, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...”  
Romans 1:16a (ESV)

- **I don't know enough!**

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that **they were uneducated, common men**, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.” Acts 4:13 (ESV)

“And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. **For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.**”

1 Corinthians 2:1-2 (ESV)

### Ok! How do I put this into practice?

“Therefore **be imitators of God**, as beloved children. And **walk in love**, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. **Let no one deceive you with empty words**, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk as children of light** (for the fruit of light is found in all

that is good and right and true), and try to **discern what is pleasing to the Lord**. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead **expose them**. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, **'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'** **Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.** Therefore do not be foolish, but **understand what the will of the Lord is**. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, **giving thanks always** and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.**" Ephesians 5:1-21 (ESV)

**Life Application:** Spiritual awakening has to begin with us.

Every fire begins with a spark. Every revolution begins with a choice. Every awakening begins with an individual.

"One man awake...awakens another. The second awakens his next-door brother. The three awake can rouse a town by turning the whole place upside down. The many awake can cause such a fuss it finally awakens the rest of us. One man up, with dawn in his eyes, surely then, multiplies." 1700s Poem by Lawrence Tribble

**Life Application:** God awakens US so that WE can awaken OTHERS.

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Connect Group Questions:

1. Awakened by Belief

Read: John 11:45.

The people believed in Jesus because of what He did in Lazarus' life. What has God done in your life that could cause others to believe? How comfortable are you sharing that story with others?

2. Salt & Light

Read: Matthew 5:13–16.

Jesus says we are salt and light. In what ways are you actively shining His light in your family, workplace, or community? Where do you struggle to "let your light shine"?

3. Our Mission

Read: Matthew 28:18–20.

Many people can recite the Great Commission, but fewer live it out. What step can you personally take this week to live as someone "sent" rather than just "saved"?

4. Facing Obstacles

Read: 2 Timothy 1:7, Romans 1:16, & Acts 4:13.

Fear, shame, and feelings of inadequacy often hold us back from sharing Christ. Which of these obstacles do you most relate to, and how do these scriptures encourage you to overcome them?

5. Walking as Children of Light

Read: Ephesians 5:8–10 & 14–16.

Paul says, "Awake, O sleeper... Walk as children of light." What habits or choices in your daily life help you walk in the light? What habits might be pulling you back toward darkness?

6. Personal Awakening

Read: Ephesians 5:18–21.

Paul contrasts being filled with the Spirit versus being controlled by other influences. How can we practically "be filled with the Spirit" in our everyday lives?

7. Awakening Others

Read: Matthew 5:16.

The poem says, "One man awake awakens another." Who has God placed in your life right now that you can intentionally "awaken" by living out your faith in front of them?