

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL HOPE IN A TIME OF COVID

A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

ISAIAH 45:7

I FORM LIGHT AND CREATE DARKNESS,
I MAKE WEAL AND CREATE WOE;
I THE LORD DO ALL THESE THINGS.

Spark

The phrase "This year will be different", has been repeated time and time again to us all through the past nine months. A pandemic nobody saw coming, the cancellation of sporting events, the quarantining, the lack of toilet paper in stores. If you would have told me a year ago that this would be my new reality, I never would have believed you. Though day after day, this new reality suddenly has become one big blur.

The past nine months have not been easy ones. It's okay, I will be the first to admit it. Finding light and shining your own in such a dark period of time is extremely difficult. Light cannot be anything other than what it is. It's bright; it dispels darkness; it enables people to see what they are doing. God is light, and since He sent His Holy Spirit to live inside believers, so are we. As his ambassadors on earth, we shine even when we don't know it. So in this time of darkness, why must our lights go out? Why must they fade away? When everything that can go wrong, has seemed to go wrong, why are we not focusing on the one thing that never will? Keeping faith can be hard when there never seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel. But what many do not realize, is that we are all in this tunnel together. And it only takes one. One believer, one spark, one small glimmer of hope, one light, to have an effect on those around us.

Shining your light in the pure darkness may be scary and make you vulnerable, but you must always look at the bigger picture. It takes one spark to start a forest fire. A fire of love, hope, spirit, faith, belief, that one day, things will return to normal. You must let the fire inside you be stronger than your reasons to put it out. Because when you do, the whole tunnel will be bright, and that is when we make progress. Having faith that one day all will be alright again is difficult, but I need you to listen, I mean really listen to what I am about to tell you. You matter, but it is not about you. Read it again. Read it over and over again until you really understand. This was a lesson I was taught this past year, and ever since I have truly understood what it means. My perspective on my life and every decision I make has not ever been the same. When trying to shine your light this holiday season, remember this lesson. Because it truly is not only about you, but as a congregation as a whole. We will move forward as one, not only looking forward to the light at the end of the tunnel, but the new light inside of it, making our spirits and hopes soar.



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LORD, MAY YOUR LIGHT OF HOPE
SHINE IN THE DARKNESS FOR ALL
TODAY. SHOW US GLIMPSES OF YOUR
PRESENCE WITH US AND THE
COMFORT YOU BRING. SHOW US HOW
TO SHINE OUR LIGHTS ON THE WORLD,
AND ON ONE ANOTHER. YOU ARE
TRUSTWORTHY, GOOD, AND TRUE,
AND WE THANK YOU FOR CARING FOR
US SO DEEPLY AND BEAUTIFULLY. GIVE
US YOUR LIGHT. IN JESUS NAME,
AMEN.