

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16 NIV

When I returned to the Southland after many years away, I was coming from coastal Northern California where the change of seasons is subtle. As I walked in the new neighborhood on a crisp fall day, I came upon a liquid amber tree glowing in the sunshine. I was stunned and delighted to see how luminous it was -- almost unreal -- a little like Moses' burning bush there before me.

I thought to myself, "If only I could light up the world as well as that tree. It's gold and red leaves seem to radiate light. How can I increase my ability to do this?" It came to me that there is no way for a mere human to shine that brilliantly. I realized that I needed God's help. I committed to drawing close to God in Christ every day -- with Bible reading, prayer and following my Lord as closely as I could.

May your light shine more brightly day by day, pointing others to God.

Holy and Loving God, may our lives show others that we belong to you. Help us to shine brightly to the world around us. Amen.



