

Following Our Spiritual Light

by Candyce Carden Deal

The sunflower is one of the world's most recognizable flowers. Replicating the pattern and colors of the sun, it resembles its namesake. The flower grows tall and proud and symbolizes vitality, devotion, and adoration. Who can resist a smile of delight when looking at one of these beauties? No wonder it's recognized by so many.

The sunflower has another characteristic that relates to its name. It follows the sun. A young flower faces east at dawn, waiting patiently for the sunrise. Throughout the day, it slowly tracks the sun's light as it moves west across the sky. Then, during the night, the flower gently rotates east to begin the cycle again.

I wish I were as devout and loyal as the sunflower in seeking out the spiritual light in my life. Just as the sunflower needs physical light to survive, we need the spiritual light of Jesus to thrive.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (John 8:12).

It's much easier to follow the light of Jesus when our life is going well: when all is sunny and bright. But, what about those times when darkness descends?

- A broken relationship.
- A gut-wrenching medical diagnosis.
- The loss of a loved one.
- An employer who doesn't need us anymore.

In this world, we will have trouble. But, Jesus promises we never have to walk in darkness, despite our clouds of pain. He is our refuge. He is our strength. The key to peace when walking through dark times is to draw close to Him.

"Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always" (Psalm 105:4).

Even on gray, cloudy days, the sunflower continues to follow the sun. In fact, the flower can point us to the sun's position in the sky when we can't see it. Let's be as faithful as this unique plant in seeking Jesus, our spiritual light, again and again, day by day.

By keeping our eyes fixed on Him, our dark times won't overshadow our source of inner light. But, it doesn't end there, for Jesus also tells us, "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14).

Jesus said He came as the light of the world, but He also instructs us to be the light of the world. We can reflect His light by the way we lead our lives—loving others as He loves us.

His light shines through our actions, words, and thoughts. When we faithfully follow Him, we add light to the world.

Sunflowers are true followers of their source of life, the sun. As believers, let's become devoted followers of our source of life—Jesus Christ.

By seeking His light, we find peace in our struggles and cast His light into a dark and hurting world.



About
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