

The Light of God

Watching Hallmark Christmas movies is a tradition at our house. They are uplifting because there is a happy ending to every movie. The happy ending follows a crisis faced by the main characters. One recent Hallmark movie that struck me showed a young lady who went to her church to pray at a particularly troublesome time in her life. She was in a crisis situation and needed God's help.

In her mind, she needed a miracle. As she sat alone in the pew of an empty church, a church worker came to her and listened to her story. She suggested the young lady go to the front of the church and light a candle, and pray for God's help. The altar area was aglow from a multitude of lighted candles. As the troubled young lady looked at the long row of illuminated candles, she acknowledged, "Every candle is someone's prayer." She realized others were facing problems, too.



We think we are alone in our problems. We think that others are generally living a trouble-free, charmed life, and ours is the only complicated one. Not so. Everyone has a candle needing to be lit. We all need God's help. A loving God is ready and willing to help. We need to ask and then trust God's answer. In God's wisdom, His answer will be better than what we asked for.

God's light is a direct contrast to the darkness of this world. Many of the issues we face are the result of the dark, sinful world in which we live. Jesus said, ... *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* (John 8:12). Following Jesus is walking in the light. The fact that the multitude of candles in the sanctuary are illuminated shows that others, too, are seeking God's grace. A church website describes the purpose of the candles this way: "The light represents a prayer, offered in faith, entering the light of God." *In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind* (John 1:4). We are asking for God's Grace at a time when we need it the most, and we make our requests to God through prayer.

As always, shortly after the crisis, there was a happy ending in the Hallmark movie. God answered the prayer of the young lady. When things seemed to be at their lowest, there was an answer. That will happen to you, too. God will answer your prayer. When things seem bleak, seek God's light as you go to the Lord in prayer. The Bible tells us: *The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned* (Isaiah 9:2). You are not alone. Trust that you will see God's light to show you the way as He answers your prayer.

Here's the Point: Everyone has issues. When we bring our issues to God through prayer, you can trust that He will answer.

Question: What do you need to ask God in prayer?

Prayer: Dear Lord. Sometimes we think we are alone with the problems we face. Shine your light on us as we seek your answer. Amen.