

Gold Refined By Fire

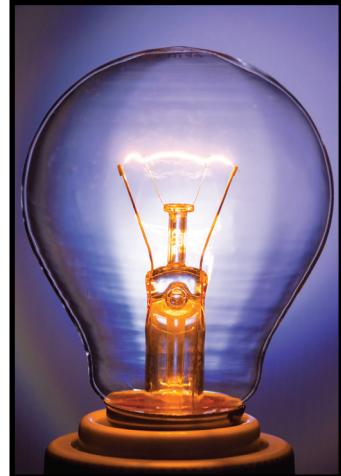
After *Golfers of Men* (1999), *The Master's Touch* (2000) and *Witness Breakthrough* (2005), what makes *If We Are The Light, Why Is America So Dark?* different? First, it's a book that examines our shortcomings as American Christians regarding witnessing about our precious faith. We emphasize being a *daily witness*- witnessing where we "... live, move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). We witness to others compelled by God's love for us, not out of duty.

Like most, I have had numerous challenges in life. Prior to starting *Witness Breakthrough* we lost everything- our home and business- due to the 9/11 attacks and lengthy health-related expenses. My business was tied directly to the tourism and non-profit industries, which underwent very lean times.

Daily, I cried out to God for wisdom, understanding, and direction. One morning, I read that "...Jesus went to a quiet place..." (Mark 1:35). I found a quiet place on the Silver Comet Trail (a delightful 50-mile biking and walking trail on the west side of Atlanta), six miles away from dense crowding. My bench provided a private spot overlooking a clearing.

For over 40 years, I have read the Bible daily. Through His word, I have found answers to every problem and challenge I've ever faced... I love God's Word! In my quiet place, I did three things the Bible directed me to do:

- Cast all my care upon the Lord- health and financial challenges (1 Peter 5:7).
- Praise Him for everything that had come our way (1 Thessalonians 5:18).
- Humble myself and be still before God (Job 40:4-5, 42:1-6).



Faithfully, for 2-3 hours several times a week for more than a year, I met with God at my quiet place and did the aforementioned.

Guess what? Things got worse, not better! I knew I was doing all I could do spiritually, yet every work opportunity continued to fizzle. Work that normally came through dedicated effort never got to first base.

At last I secured a financially significant four-month consulting opportunity- it was a “done deal”. I appeared in the business section headlines as the consulting interim president of a major non-profit organization. The attorney had drawn up the agreement. I arrived for my first day on the job with bags packed for an extended stay. But the job that was going to help me recover financially fell through! A number of similar experiences, coupled with extreme extended financial pressure, crushed me. I understood how Job must have felt.

I continued to go to my quiet place, finding tremendous peace that passes understanding. At the end of my unhurried time with the Lord, I would pray Romans 12:1, "...in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God- this is your true and proper worship."

This Silver Comet Trail quiet retreat became my place of deep worship and peace during the financial turmoil. However, my financial situation did not improve. In addition, I was hit from behind by a truck, causing extreme whiplash and ongoing therapy. While traveling for WB, I had two painful pancreatitis attacks and was hospitalized. I certainly identified with Revelation 3:18 I was being refined in the fire of suffering. However, the WB ministry expanded despite my poor health and financial pressure. Many times I would buy one way airline tickets, sleep in my car, or hawk my '95 Buick to pay for essential health insurance. It was quite a change from my earlier years of flying only first class, staying in luxury hotels and living at the Atlanta Country Club for over 20 years.

My ways are not God's ways, and that is certainly true for *Witness Breakthrough!* I had planned on being financially independent in full-time ministry, but instead I am totally dependent on others for financial support through individual gifts, foundations, and churches. Through the "fires" in my life, I've gained a clearer vision. Without a doubt the church is the WB target market, and multiplication of the gospel is

the goal. After being equipped, ordinary people will share Christ in obedience and love (Acts 4:13, 23, 29-31).

By faith I accept His ways as far better than mine... God refines the gold of our faith through trials, and when we endure, greater faith will result. I see clearly now that God wants me first to love Him, then to reach out to people. People are the bottom line to life! (Luke 19:10).

WB is dedicated to multiplying the gospel through training the church. *If We Are the Light, Why is America So Dark?* is meant to encourage, challenge, and build up the believer to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

What's Different & Unique about Witness Breakthrough?

- The WB focuses on where we *walk daily*...It's not short term, an event or program to plan.

We are a witness everyday, so why not be a good witness?"

Acts 17:28

- WB teaches a unique method based upon being *compelled by love, not duty* (John 3:16).
- As a result of learning how to listen...By *asking meaningful questions* (Proverbs 18:13).
- WB Training is *Actual* not *Theoretical*. *All* WB Training is based upon recent actual witnessing experiences as models not role playing.
- WB Books give *Bible-Based Proven Insights*
 - » *Golfers of Men*
 - » *Witness Breakthrough*
 - » *The Master's Touch*
 - » *If We Are the Light, Why is America So Dark?*
- WB training encourages *scripture-based methods* such as *reporting back, maps, and prayer*.

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Acts 17:28