Dear Open Door Family,

Early last week I planted a small pot of miniature daffodils and some other flowers in the pots on our deck. Every day I have been able to look out the window or sit on the deck and enjoy the amazing colors. I love color! It is amazing to me how many shades of yellow there are. I am always left speechless by the beauty that surrounds us each spring. I love the fact that God has surrounded us with beauty that we can see and experience. One thing we take for granted when we talk about color is light. If you have ever mixed colors of paint it is an amazing thing to see all the different shades you can come up with by mixing them. But if you had to do it in the DARK you would have no idea of what the colors looked like. So Light is essential if we are to enjoy the color all around us. Let's look at these verses together.

Matthew 5:14 *(NIV) You ARE the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. [NIV]*

Matthew 5:14 (The Message) You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept...

The purpose of light is to shine, to give light so that we can see. In shining, light allows all the colors of the rainbow to be seen. Without light, there is no color visible. Can you imagine living without color? Not being able to see the awe inspiring colors of a sunrise. Not being able to see the incredible colors of the spring flowers? Not being able to see the incredible blue sky with the white clouds floating by? In a sense people who are not Christians can't really see the COLOR because they do not have light. That is why it is our job to shine! So that they can get a glimpse of the incredible beauty of God in our lives and turn to Him to receive His Forgiveness. Peter said that our job as a people who belong to God is to *"...declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."* (1 Pet. 2:9).

PRAYER: Lord, please help me to rejoice that you have rescued me from darkness and brought me into the Light. Help me to shine brightly for you. May people see YOU in me. May they see the wonder of the LIGHT that only You can bring into their lives.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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