

Is Our Journey to the  
Kingdom of God Causing  
a Roadblock for Others?

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Have you ever experienced a traffic jam?

Ever Heard the  
country song,  
International  
Harvester?



“I'm the son of a 3rd generation farmer  
I've been married 10 years to the farmer's daughter  
I'm a **God fearin'** hard workin' combine driver  
Hoggin' up the road on my p-p-p-p-plower  
Chug a lug a luggin' 5 miles an hour  
On my International Harvester

Three miles of cars layin' on their horns  
Fallin' on deaf ears of corn  
Lined up behind me like a big parade  
Of late to work road raged jerks

Well you may be on a state paved road  
But that blacktop runs through my payload  
Excuse me for tryin' to do my job  
But this year ain't been no bumper crop  
If you don't like the way I'm a drivin'  
Get back on the interstate  
Otherwise sit tight and be nice  
And quit yer honkin' at me that way

1 Corinthians 8:9

But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak

# Philippians 2:12-13

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

# I don't care what others think, only what I think matters to me.

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- The eyes of the world are on us. People in the world are quick to find fault.
- What about the examples we are setting...
- or not setting for others.
- But, we are all human. Other people do watch us and what we do...or don't do.

Are We Preaching The  
Gospel?

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# Are We Preaching The Gospel?

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## **Matthew 28:16-20**

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.**

## **Matthew 10:27**

**What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.**

# Are We Preaching The Gospel?

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## **Acts 20:24-27**

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God. And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more. Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

# Are We Preaching The Gospel?

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## **1 Thessalonians 2:7-11**

But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us. For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.

Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe: As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

# Are We Preaching The Gospel?

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## **1 Timothy 4:10-11**

For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe. These things command and teach.

Are we rearing our  
children correctly?

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# Are we rearing our children correctly?

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## **Proverbs 22:6**

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

## **Deuteronomy 4:9-10**

Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

## **Deuteronomy 11:19**

And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

# Are we rearing our children correctly?

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## **Deuteronomy 6:5-9**

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

## **Psalm 78:2-4**

I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

# Are we rearing our children correctly?

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## **Proverbs 23:13-14**

Withhold not correction from the child:  
for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.

Thou shalt beat him with the rod,  
and shalt deliver his soul from hell.

## **Proverbs 22:15**

Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child;  
but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.



# Are we rearing our children correctly?

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## **Colossians 3:21**

Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

## **Ephesians 6:4**

And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

## **Matthew 18:5-6**

And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

# Are we rearing our children correctly?

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## Matthew 19:13-15

Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, **Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.** And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence.

Are we able to provide  
an answer?

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# Are we able to provide an answer?

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When someone approached us with questions, do we stumble with biblical truth?

## **1 Peter 3:15**

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

## **2 Timothy 2:23-36**

But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

# Are we able to provide an answer?

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## **1 Timothy 4:12**

Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

## **2 Timothy 2:15**

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

Are we correcting?

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# Are we correcting?

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## **2 Timothy 4:2-4**

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

## **1 Timothy 5:1-2**

Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

# Are we correcting?

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## **Ezekiel 3:17-21**

Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.



# Are we correcting?

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## **Acts 20:28-31**

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears

## **Galatians 6:1**

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Are we humble?

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# Are we humble?

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## **Ephesians 4:2**

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

## **Philippians 2:3**

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

## **Proverbs 11:2**

When pride cometh, then cometh shame:  
but with the lowly is wisdom.

# Are we humble?

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## **Proverbs 29:23**

A man's pride shall bring him low:  
but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

## **Proverbs 22:4**

By humility and the fear of the Lord  
are riches, and honour, and life.

## **Proverbs 11:2**

When pride cometh, then cometh shame:  
but with the lowly is wisdom.

# Are we humble?

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## **1 Peter 5:5-7**

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

## **James 3:13**

Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

## **James 4:10**

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

Are we helping others?

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# Are we helping others?

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## **Ephesians 4:28**

Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

## **Exodus 17:8-12**

Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim. And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand. So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

# Are we helping others?

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## **Galatians 6:2**

Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

## **Hebrews 13:16**

But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

## **Philippians 2:4**

Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

## **Matthew 10:5-7**

These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, **Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.**



# Are we helping others?

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**John 15:13**

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Do we have  
compassion?

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# Do we have compassion?

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## **1 John 4:19-21**

We love him, because he first loved us.

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

# Do we have compassion?

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## **Colossians 3:12-13**

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

## **Matthew 20:29-34**

And as they departed from Jericho, a great multitude followed him. And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David. And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David. And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said, **What will ye that I shall do unto you?** They say unto him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened. So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.

# Do we have compassion?

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## Matthew 25:35-45

For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

Do we have faith?

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# Do we have faith?

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## Matthew 6:25-34

Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

# Do we have faith?

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## **James 2:14-17**

What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.



Are we slowing  
ourselves down?

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# Are we slowing ourselves down?

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## **Hebrews 11:7**

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

# Are we slowing ourselves down?

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## **Matthew 25:5-13**

While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

# Are we slowing ourselves down?

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**Matthew 24:44**

Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh

**Proverbs 6:6-10**

Go to the ant, thou sluggard;  
consider her ways, and be wise:  
Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,  
Provideth her meat in the summer,  
and gathereth her food in the harvest.  
How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard?  
when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?  
Yet a little sleep, a little slumber,  
a little folding of the hands to sleep:



# Are we slowing ourselves down?

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## **1 John 2:28**

And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

## **Romans 13:11-14**

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof

# Are we slowing ourselves down?

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Are we finishing what we start?

## **Revelation 3:17**

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

## **Hebrews 12:1-2**

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

# Are we slowing ourselves down?

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Do we have a do nothing attitude?

## **James 4:17**

Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

## **2 Peter 2:21**

For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

## **Jeremiah 7:13-15**

And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the Lord, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not; Therefore will I do unto this house, which is called by my name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh. And I will cast you out of my sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, even the whole seed of Ephraim.

We need to step  
on the gas and  
stop being a road  
block to ourselves!

“East bound and down, loaded up and truckin',  
We're gonna do what they say can't be done.  
We've got a long way to go and a short time to get there.  
I'm east bound, just watch ol' "Christian" run.”



# Do Something – Matthew West

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I woke up this morning  
Saw a world full of trouble now, thought  
How'd we ever get so far down, and  
How's it ever gonna turn around  
So I turned my eyes to Heaven  
I thought, "God, why don't You do something?"  
Well, I just couldn't bear the thought of  
People living in poverty  
Children sold into slavery  
The thought disgusted me  
So, I shook my fist at Heaven  
Said, "God, why don't You do something?"  
He said, "I did, yeah, I created you" (now listen)

If not us, then who  
If not me and you  
Right now, it's time for us to do something, yeah  
If not now, then when  
Will we see an end  
To all this pain  
Oh, it's not enough to do nothing  
It's time for us to do something

I'm so tired of talking about  
How we are God's hands and feet  
But it's easier to say than to be  
Live like angels of apathy who tell ourselves  
It's alright, "somebody else will do something"  
Well, I don't know about you  
But I'm sick and tired of life with no desire  
I don't want a flame, I want a fire and  
I wanna be the one who stands up and says  
"I'm gonna do something"

If not us, then who  
If not me and you  
Right now, it's time for us to do something, yes it is, come  
on  
If not now, then when  
Will we see an end  
To all this pain  
Oh oh, it's not enough to do nothing  
It's time for us to do something

# Do Something – Matthew West

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We are the salt of the earth  
We are a city on a hill  
We're never gonna change the world  
By standing still  
No, we won't stand still  
No, we won't stand still  
No, we won't stand still  
No

If not us, then who  
If not me and you  
Right now  
It's time for us to do something  
If not now, then when  
Will we see an end  
To all this pain  
It's not enough to do nothing  
It's time for us to do something  
It's time for us to do something  
It's time for us to do something

# Do Something

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## **Matthew 5:14-16**

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Are We Setting the  
Example for the World?

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# What Else Can We Add?

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(Congregation Contributed)

- We should not be selfish and do for others before we think of ourselves
- We can rise up and remove the strongholds of sin that try to block us. Move those rocks out of the way.
- We need to diligently understand that this race is not just us but our brothers and sisters
- We can learn from others
- We need to develop ourselves to be prepared to be teachers for others
- We need to find the lost and wandering sheep
- Work on building up the family and getting away from the distractions
- Recognize your individual talent and allow others to help identify the talents and use them
- We need to first pray for God's guidance on how we can be used every day
- Exhort one another daily and provoke others to good works
- Don't wait for others to do and have good courage to act
- Our first priority is to spend time with the LORD daily and look for Him to teach us not just a man
- Develop an ear to hear

# Are We?

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- Are We Preaching The Gospel?
- Are we rearing our children correctly?
- Are we able to provide an answer?
- Are we correcting?
- Are we humble?
- Do we have compassion?
- Do we have faith?
- Are we Doing Something?

If not we could be causing  
a roadblock for others or  
ourselves needlessly.

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# Are we living the Kingdom now?

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IF NOT, HOW CAN OTHERS SEE WHAT IT COULD BE LIKE