

# JOE BONGA

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**God made human beings to be his visible image on the earth. Not because we “look like” God but because we are called to show what God is like with all our lives.**

## REACT

God made you. He gives you your identity. He calls you to be his image-bearer to the world around you.

When you hear these truths about yourself, what is your initial reaction?

Reflecting God doesn't come out in how you look, but what you do. In Matthew 5, Jesus said, "...let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."—Matthew 5:16b

If you are a follower of Jesus, you are to be a reflection of God's love for everyone.

**You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.—Matthew 5:14**

## REFLECT

Each new day, we have an exciting opportunity. We get to show what God is like in a world desperate for meaning and belonging. Look at the way the apostle Peter frames it:

Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing.—1 Peter 3:8-9





THINK ABOUT HOW YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE. DO YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS CAUSE PEOPLE TO WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT GOD?

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.—Ephesians 2:10

## RESPOND

So, what allows us to reflect God well? Life isn't easy, and we aren't always at our best. To live the life God calls us to, we need to lean into the two things God gives us—his Spirit and his Word.

The Spirit of God dwells within the followers of Jesus. He empowers us to do his will and work. The Spirit comforts us in our pain, convicts us of our sin, and conforms us to be more like Jesus.

How do we tap into the Spirit? We pray, asking the Spirit to fill and guide us. We listen as the Spirit speaks to our hearts and guides us. We obey when the Spirit prompts us.

The Word of God, the Bible, fills our hearts and minds with truth and lights our path with wisdom. When we read it daily, we are giving ourselves a filter by which we can impact the world.

When we read God's Word and ask God's Spirit to lead us, we open ourselves up to being excellent reflections of God's Word. The words we say and the actions we take will show God's love to the world.

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. James 1:22

## REVIEW

- We are called to show what God is like to the world, to "reflect" him.
- What we say and do is how we reflect God to the world.
- When we spend time in God's word daily, pray, and ask the Holy Spirit to work within us, we can reflect God well.



## MEMORIZE

So God created human beings in his own image.  
In the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27

## ACTION STEPS

- Read the Bible every day for 3 weeks.
- Pray and ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit.
- Listen to what God is saying through his word and prayer.
- Take action to show God's love as he leads.