

A preacher once told of a cruise he took along a rocky coast. He stopped at a desolate little island where a tall lighthouse sent out its bright rays over the sea. He sat with the lighthouse keeper, and in their conversation the lighthouse keeper told how he lived alone there, but that once every two weeks a coast guard vessel brought him supplies. Amazed at the isolation within sight of land, the preacher asked, “Don’t you get lonesome and bored out here all by yourself, day after day?”

The old weather-beaten man turned with a smile and a simple reply. “Not since I saved my first life!”

Lights

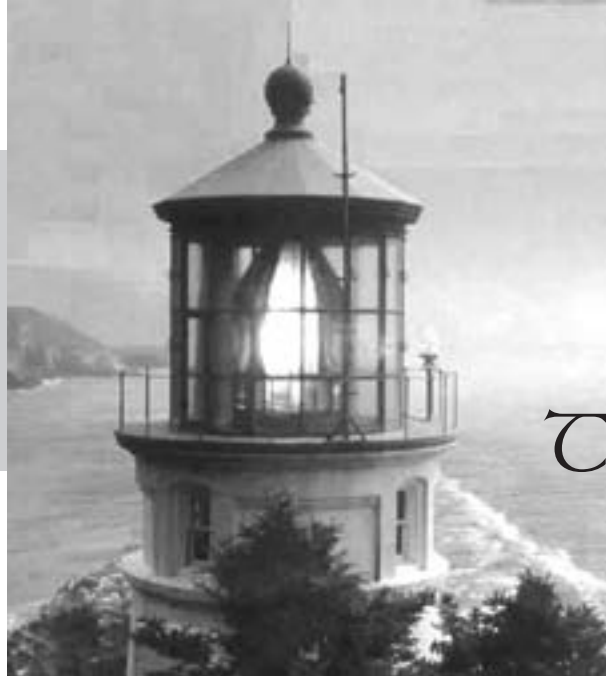
By Chloe West

What is it about a lighthouse that stirs the imagination? Tall, strong, invincible—a lighthouse is a literal tower of strength that rises in the very spot where boiling waves and craggy cliffs mean danger.

But I don’t think it’s the steady strength of a lighthouse that I like best. No, it’s the beacon. It’s the light that for me signals reassurance and peace and safety, no matter what. It’s the way the light shines in good weather or bad. Any day of the week. Any month. Any year. How it shines and shines, even when no one needs it, even when no one sees it. It shines because one day someone *will* need it; one day it will save a life.

We all need lighthouses in our lives. We need someone to turn to, to help us not crash on the rocks. We need a light to point the way. We need reassurance when we feel alone and vulnerable. We need the safety of the light, the comfort of the signal. We need to know which way is home.

They sometimes call lighthouses simply “lights.” The light for me is God and His Word, and sometimes people who point me to Him. What’s your light?



The Beacon

By Colin C. Bell

As I rounded a bend in the road I saw the beacon, standing tall on a promontory.

Its foundations were deeply anchored in the rock on which it stood. It stretched to the sky, unmoved by storms and gales, tides and time, faithfully sending out its light. All the churning, crashing waters couldn’t bring it down. Even the worst storms, with their torrents of rain and hail and snow, couldn’t extinguish the light.

But what about me? Am I the beacon God wants me to be?

We should all be beacons, especially as we see the night approach and storms gather on the horizon.

“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

You, O Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light (Psalm 18:28*).

The Lord will be your everlasting light (Isaiah 60:20b).

Let us walk in the light of the Lord (Isaiah 2:5).

God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5b).

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? (Psalm 27:1).

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*All verses are from the New International Version of the Bible.