

Based on 2 Peter 1:13-21
The Transfiguration of Our Lord

I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to refresh your memory, since I know that my death will come soon, as indeed our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

In this passage, the author is reflecting both on the experience we call the Transfiguration (where Jesus was seen by Peter, James, and John in something like his true heavenly splendor) and a lifetime spent in service to sharing the Good News of Jesus.

The work of ministry is somewhat unique among the wide range of human endeavors because it isn't a work that we undertake ourselves; rather it is a joint effort between ourselves and God. In a sense, this is what it means when we say the church is the body of Christ. The only way that people will hear Christ's words, feel Christ's touch, or know Christ's love is through us. Our mission, as the church, is to so take up Christ's demeanor and work that our efforts become indistinguishable from His.

Of course, the church falls short of that goal, and our inherent "human-ness" gets in the way. So, it is important that we continue to grow deeper in our faith through putting our energies into the disciplines or habits of faith; worship, prayer, service, study, generosity, and sabbath.

This is what the author means when he writes that we should "*to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.*" The lamps mentioned here would have been oil lamps that would have needed to be regularly refilled if they were to keep their lights burning.

And what the author here has discovered is that the life of faith is a product of the work of God in the world, like the Transfiguration, and the result of our efforts to become Christ-like ourselves.