



My Light with a Purpose
Devotion for Christian Life

Begin by singing or saying the words to “This Little (Gospel) Light of Mine”.

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| 1. This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
Oh, this little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine | 2. All around the neighborhood
I'm going to let it shine
All around the neighborhood
I'm going to let it shine
All around the neighborhood
I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine. |
| 3. Hide it under a bushel? No!
I'm going to let it shine
Hide it under a bushel? No!
I'm going to let it shine
Hide it under a bushel? No!
I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine. | 4. Don't let Satan [blow] it out!
I'm going to let it shine
Don't let Satan [blow] it out!
I'm going to let it shine
Don't let Satan [blow] it out!
I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine |

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Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. Matthew 5:15

As a child, I always liked the song, “This Little Gospel Light of Mine.” I was always singing “all around the neighborhood, I’m gonna to let it shine.” I could sing it with real exuberance. But as I proceeded through my life, I’m not sure that I was doing a very good job of sharing it “all around the neighborhood.” Thinking back on it, I was always saying, “this little Gospel light.” It gave the impression that my little light didn’t make much difference.

If we think of our light as “little” and not able to accomplish much, do we tend to hide it and not carry it out in a proactive way? It’s so little that it probably isn’t worthwhile enough to shine. What a difference is my “little” light going to make? So even though I was singing “all around the neighborhood,” I wasn’t doing the “all around the neighborhood” stuff. In a way, I was putting it under a bowl, as started in our theme verse. I was comfortable with my little light and not really seeing the possibilities of “all around the neighborhood” and “pointing the way to heaven.” I was more in a defensive position with my light just in case anybody ever tried to “poof it out”.

But wait! Some wonderful Bible passages help us to see just how *big* our Gospel light is.

Isaiah 42:6 says, *“I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles.”*

John 12:46 states, *I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. My light is big because of Jesus. I can be on the offense because of who has given me the light.*

As we think about our purpose for using the light we have been given, there is a wonderful example given in Luke 15:8: *“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?”* This woman is not in a defensive position, just waiting until the coin shows up. She takes the offensive approach and uses the light to search for the lost coin. Acts 13:47 commands us to be proactive in carrying the light into the world. The Lord says, *“I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”*

In order to accomplish that command, we have to see purpose in our own light and know that, together with God and with our brothers and sisters in Christ, this Gospel light is big and powerful.

The end result of our Gospel lighting should be what is promised to us in Revelation 22:5: *There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.*

Won’t this be great to have all those affected by our *big* Gospel light living in the presence of God with us?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we come into Your awesome, light-filled presence seeking more of Your radiance in our lives. Lord, we want to be big and powerful lights for You. Help us to rely more on You for that power from prayer and Your Word. Then help us to confidently and purposefully hold up Your light for those who need You. Help us to be bold in our witness and yet to accomplish that with the tenderness of Your love. We ask this in the Name of Jesus, our Light. Amen.

All Scripture is from the NIV.