

Live a Sparkling Life

BY JAN BRUNETTE

I call them “God’s sparkles of love” — these tiny reflections of light that bounce onto the walls, the ceiling, and anything else nearby. These reflections of light emanate from two cut glass candle holders resting on my fireplace mantel. As the sun begins to set and shine through my window, I marvel at the image I receive and often sit in a perfect location to stare at the beauty radiating from those tiny pieces of glass. It serves as a comfort to me, no matter my circumstances, for each time I am reminded of “God’s sparkles” in my life as revealed through His tender love, power, and peace. And I realize that these gifts of God are not only granted to me but available to pass on to others.

Prayer: Dear Father in heaven, may Your sparkling love be evident as we study about the beautiful source of light revealed in Your Word. Open our eyes to the ever-present light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, available to us every day. In His most precious name we pray. Amen.

The Light Revealed in the Old Testament

At the creation of the world, light was His first created work (Genesis 1:3). God was, and is, the source of light that shone in the darkness, for no other sources of light had yet been created (verses 14–18). It is a wonderful reminder that the only true source of light in our sin-filled, dark world is God Himself.

Moses experienced the overwhelming light of the Lord after having intimate conversations with Him. What was his experience in **Exodus 34:29–35**? _____

What is ours in **2 Corinthians 3:7–12, 17–18**? _____

The Psalms also beautifully illustrate how the Lord is revealed as the source of all light, for He is Light Himself. Refer to the following verses.

Psalms 36:9 _____

Psalms 89:15 _____

Psalms 104:1–2 _____

Psalms 118:27 _____

The Light Revealed in the New Testament

The light of God that was revealed on the face of Moses was later to be exposed fully in the sparkling light of Jesus Christ. When the Word became flesh, Jesus exposed a light — His creation light — to those who were blessed to have witnessed Him on earth. Read **John 1:1–9, 14** and **Matthew 17:1–5**. Who were the witnesses and what did they report? _____

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all ... But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:5, 7).

Compare this section of 1st John to **John 12:44-46**.

The light of Christ doesn't end with those who witnessed Him on earth, for His light now shines in the hearts and lives of His beloved children. *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light* (1 Peter 2:9).

We Are His Reflected, Sparkling Light to the World

[Jesus said], "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16).

The phrase "gives light to all in the house" impresses on me the idea of Christ's love as He reflects onto the various aspects of my life and how they sparkle into the lives of others. Just as the sun is the source of the sparkles I see on my walls and ceiling, so Christ is the source of the light in me that is reflected for others to see. Who has reflected Christ's light to you? _____

How? _____

In what ways are you a reflector? _____

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6).

His Light Creates Change

Referring again to Matthew 5:16 above, list the two outcomes of redirecting the sparkling, Son-reflecting light to others. _____

Because of Him, we seek those things that are from above — both to do good works out of love for Him and to bring all glory to His name. These two together reveal Christ's sparkling presence within us. Discuss why these two outcomes are so important and so connected. _____

Read aloud together Paul's advice: *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him ... Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ* (Colossians 3:16-17 and 23-24).

Sparkling Through the Cracks, Even in Adversity

Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations ... a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench (Isaiah 42:1, 3a).

When our world is falling apart, we may ask, "How can I still reveal God's 'sparkles of love' that emanate from Him?" We need to remember this: no matter what we are facing or how we are feeling, the light never fades, because the source of the light is Jesus Christ. Sometimes, when our flaws are the widest His love sparkles onto others most brightly. Even though our burning wicks may appear to be dying, it is through adversity that His strength, love, and courage fill us and enable us to be His greatest examples. It is in Him and Him alone that His love-light floods through us and sparkles on all those who surround us. *For we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit* (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Conclude this lesson by reading **2 Corinthians 4:7-11** and **16-18** for comfort, strength and encouragement as you continue to be His shining, sparkling lights.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, may the light of Your presence flow through me today — even when experiencing adversity and grief. Thank you for Your amazing love and grace as revealed in the light-filled life You lived for me through your cross and resurrection. In Your name I pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Sing or say together one or more verses of "O God of Light" (LSB #836) or "O God of God, O Light of Light" (LSB #810; LW #83; TLH #132).

Jan Brunette is a Christian author, speaker, and freelance writer who has been an active member in the LWML for more than 40 years.