

SHINE!

Devotion

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 5:16).

Let's start by singing a familiar praise song — “This Little Gospel Light of Mine.”

Before we sing any more of this, let me ask how are you (we) doing with this “shine” concept? Are we doing a good job of shining our light? Maybe we feel we need to do a better job, but how?

First, let's look at what kind of “light” we are to be shining. It is perhaps a little misleading to sing “this little light of **mine**,” as it really isn't our light at all, but light given to us, shone into our lives by God through His Son, Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6 says, *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.*

What is the source of our light? Why do we have this light? Isaiah 9:2, 6 says:

*² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.
⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

What (Who) is this great light? Why has He come to us? Read Matthew 5:14–16:

*“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.”

Whose light are we to shine? Where does it come from?

God is the one who separated light from darkness, and He promised and delivered light to those in darkness. We receive our power to shine from the Son of God, who is the light of the world and the light within us, giving us His power to reflect His joy, peace, and love to all around us.

Rev. Mark Hoffman, a former LWML district counselor, spoke about how we are often perceived by non-believers as “nuts” for our faith in Jesus as our Savior and our Lord. We look at unbelievers as “nuts” because how could anyone not see God’s hand in creation, in our relationships, and in the wonders and miracles all around us? Christ’s suffering and death to save sinful people is just plain “nuts” from a human point of view. However, Pastor Hoffman gave us a new way to look at the term “**NUTS**” as an acronym that reminds us to **N**ever **U**nderestimate **T**he **S**pirit. The Holy Spirit provided explosive power at Pentecost, like a match touched to gasoline, strengthening and empowering the disciples to witness boldly. We, too, receive power from the Holy Spirit, but it is more like gasoline in a car’s engine, providing fuel for a long journey. Jesus’ gift of the Holy Spirit to us empowers us to live out our faith daily, in whatever situation we may find ourselves. With renewed understanding of the light we have received, we are to reflect the glory of our Father in heaven. Let’s sing our song again, with a couple of minor changes.

(Sung to the tune of “Old McDonald Had a Farm.”)

Don’t let Satan (blow) it out! I’m gonna let it shine.

Don’t let Satan (blow) it out! I’m gonna let it shine.

With a (blow, blow) here and a (blow, blow) there.

Here a (blow), there a (blow), everywhere a (blow, blow).

Here a shine, there a shine, everywhere a shine, shine.

This little Gospel light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine!

Hide it under a bushel? No! I’m gonna let it shine!

Hide it under a bushel? No! I’m gonna let it shine!

With a No! No! here and a No! No! there.

Here a No! there a No! everywhere a No! No!

Here a (blow), there a (blow), everywhere a (blow, blow).

A shine, shine here and a shine, shine there.

Here a shine, there a shine, everywhere a shine, shine.

This little Gospel light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine!

Prayer: Father in heaven, You have richly blessed us with so many gifts, and we are very thankful for them all. We especially give thanks for the light You sent us in the person of Your only Son, Jesus the Christ. We have been given new life through Him, and now find rest, peace, joy, and hope because of His saving work on our behalf. We ask now that You would help us, through the Holy Spirit, to be bold lights, shining on the hills where You place us so that all around us would see Your brightness and be drawn to You. Protect us from Satan's efforts to entice us to hide our lights, and instead, guide us to strengthen each other so that together we shine even more brightly with the Gospel light You have given us. In Jesus' name we ask. Amen.

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Shine by Linda Koch, San Diego, California

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