

# This Little Light of Mine

MITZI NEELY

"O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD." Isaiah 2:5

When my daughter was little, she was afraid of the dark. Night after night I went through the motions of getting her ready for bed, prayed with her, and then tucked her into bed. Thinking we were all set for hours of deep slumber, the calm would last little more than five or ten minutes before I heard, 'Mama. Mama, come here.'

There was always something for me to check out. Look under the bed she would say. Open the closet door so she could take one last look around. Leave the door cracked so she would know we were close by.

This mama sometimes felt her patience wearing thin. My ability to take care of daily chores and prepare for the next day was getting some serious interference from the calls in the darkness.

Each time I was summoned to her room for one last 'look-see,' I knew what she really wanted was to prolong the inevitable--bedtime. It was the 'being alone' part, coupled with the dark of night that got her.

It didn't matter how many times her dad and I reassured her, she just wanted there to be light.

And when you think about it, don't we all?

**In a dark place don't we long to see a light shine?**

One of my favorite quotes by Andy Andrews says, "If darkness is winning the battles, my friend, it is because the light is not doing its job."

After many attempts of getting her to settle in for the night, we finally were able to comfort her with a night light and a 'Psalty' Singing Songbook tape. What we considered to be small and insignificant, made all the difference.

The night light provided just the right amount of illumination in her room so that she could distinguish between shadows and objects, reassuring her she was safe. And Psalty's singing character provided extra reassurance through scripture, hymns, and storytelling.

In the midst of her fear, a touch of light and a bible-believing children's character gave her God's word to store in her heart.

I'm not sure bedtime would have gone very well if we hadn't had these resources to lead her out of the darkness and into the light. But they did just that.

I am reminded of my precious girl and her nighttime shenanigans as I studied the passage in Isaiah where God calls His people to *transform their thinking, reorient their worldview, change their behavior, and come into the light.*

Much of the darkness we encounter in our lives exists in our heads. Just as it had for a little girl fearful of what the darkness would bring at bedtime. It was more about concentrating on the negative aspect, when we should have been concentrating on walking in the light of God's word.

You see the choice is ours. We can continue to go our own self-absorbed way and dwell in the depths of darkness, or we can choose to glorify God and follow His instructions. It is a matter of choosing to remove ourselves from a dark situation and move toward the light.

As we navigate our day-to-day situations we can continue to encourage others to stave off darkness as they seek God first, follow His ways, and enjoy His kingdom. And by doing this, we can truly be a light for the world.

## DIVING DEEPER

1. Read John 8:12. ***Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."*** (NIV)

Jesus brings God's presence, protection, and guidance. Describe how Jesus is the light of your world?

How has Jesus illuminated your path as you journeyed through fear and uncertainty?

2. In Psalm 119:105 we see that in order to move safely from place to place we need a light so we won't trip over obstacles in our way. In this life, we walk through a dark forest of evil.

***"Your word is lamp to my feet and a light for my path."***

Psalm 119:105 NIV

How does the Bible provide us the necessary light to steer clear of the roadblocks and stay on the right path?

How has scripture given you the support and guidance you needed as you made big decisions?

## REFLECT AND RELATE

1. When you find yourself wallowing in negativity what are some ways you can choose to step away from the darkness?

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2. As you press into Him, ask God to reveal fears that keep you from being all He wants you to be.

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3. I love this quote from Bruce VanHorn. He says, "When darkness invades our thoughts, we get stuck in what Zig Ziglar called 'stinkin' thinkin'. When this happens, your job is to shine the light of positive thinking and gratitude in your thoughts. Darkness hates the light of gratitude," but oh how our Father loves the light!

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you that despite our fears and inadequacies, you love us unconditionally. As we fend off fear and the darkness that surrounds us, let us dwell in the light of your word so that it illuminates the path you have set before us. Thank you for your hand of protection as we press forward to glorify your name. In Jesus name, Amen.

Isaiah 2:5 ; John 8:12 ; Psalm 119:105



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LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE DEVOTIONAL

Love unconditionally    illuminate my path  
 Nightlight    Amen    light of Your Word  
 lamp    transform this little light of mine  
 reorient my worldview    AMEN    follow me  
 no more darkness    LIGHT    NO FEAR    SHINE

this little  
 light  
 OF MINE  
 I'M GONNA  
 let it  
 Shine

