

Psalm 18:28

For You will light my lamp; The LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.

Here is a profound saying:

“A 100 watt light bulb shines just as bright in a church, as it does in a bar.”

I know that sounds like a no brainer, but if you look at today’s verse again, it says that **“You (God) will light my lamp”** Therefore, no matter where you are, the light of God should be shining just as brightly through you regardless where you are, be it in a church, where you work at, where you may be going to school, or a bar, or anywhere else.

Yet, how many Christians are a 100 watt lightbulb, but they tend to be a three-way lightbulb? What’s a three-way light bulb? You know, those light bulbs that you have in certain lamps that when you hit the switch it is dim, then you hit it again and it gets brighter, then again then it’s at it’s brightest. It’s like having three lightbulbs in one, a 30 watt, a 60 watt and a 100 watt lightbulb.

But we are not called be a three way lightbulb, because no matter where we are, we are to allow the light of Jesus to shine just as brightly through us as it would in church, our job, at home, the store, school, etc...

But some tend to have a dimmer switch on their lightbulb, which is that knob that as you turn it, the lights get brighter or dimmer. Paul had to address this with Peter when Paul wrote that:

† **Galatians 2:11-12** *“Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision.”*

Simply, Peter was being a three-way lightbulb, or had a dimmer switch, adjusting who he was as a believer depending on who was around him. Around the Jews, he shined like a good Jewish believer, but around the Gentiles, he shined like a Gentile, adjusting his words and action and even the things he ate or did based upon the crowd (Jews or Gentiles) he was with.

But if you have to adjust or change the way you talk, the way you dress, the music you listen to or anything else based upon the crowd, you are being a “hypocrite”, which is another word for an “actor”, because you are “acting” differently depending on the crowd or where you are at. You are being that three way lightbulb adjusting Jesus in your life based upon who is around, or even dimming your relationship with Jesus when you are around nonbelievers.

Think about those times when you look at someone and think, “*I think that he or she may be a Christian*” because they are being a 30 or 60 watt lightbulb, versus “*I know that person is a Christian*” because they are being a 100 watt lightbulb, not just in church but everywhere they go.

There is nothing better than to hear someone say to you, “*I knew you were a Christian*” because it shows you are being that 100 watt lightbulb outside of church. But on the other hand, there is nothing worse than someone saying to you in a sarcastic tone of voice, “*You’re a Christian?*” as they give you that look and smirk on their face like, “*Really?*” because you always walk around with the light in you turned down to its dimmest, so much so that people are surprised that you are a Christian at all.

So, we are all 100 watt lightbulbs, the question is, how much of that light are you allowing to shine regardless of where you are and who is around you?

We know that Jesus said that ***“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”*** Matthew 5:14-16

Also think of the Holy Spirit as the electricity lighting the lightbulb. Therefore it’s not the amount of electricity that determines how bright the light shines, because for a normal lightbulb, or a three-way lightbulb or a light that has a dimmer switch, the amount of electricity is the same. It’s more of how much of that electricity is being used to light the bulb.

† **Acts 1:8** ***“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”***

We all have the same Holy Spirit empowering us all with the same power, But it’s up to us how we use that power (so to speak) for the glory of God, shining brightly for Him. Just like James explained about Elijah, who had the same Holy Spirit that we do, but it was more of how he was using the power of the Holy Spirit, and that we seem to try and light our own lightbulbs under our own power instead of allowing the Holy Spirit to empower us, so we do not see God doing the same things like Elijah did.

† **James 5:17** ***Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.***

We won’t be a three way lightbulb or have a dimmer switch in heaven, so then we shouldn’t try to be one here on the earth, but rather we should be shining brightly for the Glory of God!!!

- † **Luke 12:9** *But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.*
- † **Psalm 4:6** *There are many who say, "Who will show us any good?" LORD, lift up the light of Your countenance upon us.*
- † **Psalm 43:3** *Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; Let them bring me to Your holy hill And to Your tabernacle.*
- † **Matthew 6:22-23** *The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!*