



## **Meditation: How is your light shining?**

*“ Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your father in heaven”*

*(Matthew 5:16 NAS)*

Christ is not instructing us here to shine our light in the world— He assumes here that we know we are supposed to shine. In this verse He is explaining how we are to shine. So the question we should ask ourselves is not “AM I shining?”, but “HOW am I shining?”

Are our good works “making us look good” or are they pointing people to the goodness of God? In our heart of hearts, which do we truly want? I think if we are honest sometimes we want to be recognized for good things we do. We especially crave the approval of others of faith. To the extent that we have it, our status as “good Christian” rises. We are respected and revered, and thus we “have received our reward in full”. But taking credit for things inspired and energized by the Holy Spirit amounts to spiritual plagiarism. And it is an empty reward.

As we learn to live in the truth of our identity and worth as a precious unique creation of God’s, and remember that each breath is a gift, each day an opportunity, our focus changes. Our life’s goal becomes to “love God with all our heart mind soul and strength, and love our neighbor as ourselves.”

We really do want Him to be the focus of others’ admiration. We desire that He be credited for what He is doing in and through us.

Our light shines in such a way that our good works are seen by others for what they truly are: a reflection of God within us.