

From *Daily Word*, Thursday September 7, 2023

Shine: I shine my light of love to all.

(Excerpt)The sun warms everything it touches. It brightens the days with warmth and light and lifts me after days of clouds and rain.

My inner light does much the same. Divine light warms my soul and lifts my heart. As I let my light shine from within, guiding my thoughts, words, and actions, I am a blessing on my journey through life.

I shine when... I live in alignment with who I am as a spiritual being and who I want to be in the world—an expression of divine love and wisdom.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.—Isaiah 60:1

Matthew 5:14-16

5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.

5:15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to God.

From **99 Names of God**, by David Steindl-Rast (in 2000, Brother David founded A Network for Grateful Living– gratefulness.org)

93: the Light

...Many spiritual Traditions speak of our encounters with the Ultimate Reality in terms of Illumination and enlightenment, and of the Great Mystery as the LIGHT.

But at the same time, darkness can appear as a fitting image for the Great Mystery– in describing its unfathomable nature. Finding it hard to choose between these two images merely points, once more, to God as the place where all opposites coincide in oneness.

The prologue to the Gospel of John explores this reconciliation of contradictory opposites by stating that” the light shines in the darkness” (John 1:5). This would be hardly worth mentioning if taken to mean merely that light shines into darkness as a kind of searchlight. Instead, what is being said is something unheard of: that the LIGHT of God is not light being shined *into* darkness, but a shining light *within* darkness itself.

From this mystical insight we may therefore take deep comfort. All that occurs to us in our daily lives is seeking to become **encounter with God**, and so we may say even to the darkest moment: : “Be my LIGHT!”

Will you dare try this in one of your darkest experiences? It won't make the darkness light. Darkness will remain dark, but radical trust walks bravely into darkness and finds the LIGHT in the middle of it.

From ***The Rebirthing of God*** by John Philip Newell, chapter 3: *Reconnecting with the Light*

“...the light of God is the essence of all things, and because the light of God is the essence of all things, everything should be regarded as a *theophany*, a showing or revealing of the divine. The deeper we move in relation to any created thing, the closer we come to the Divine Brilliance at the heart of life.

...We have a sibling relationship with everything that exists and the light that we glimpse in the trees, in the creatures, in the eyes of another, is the light that is also within us. Do we know that we are bearers of this unspeakably beautiful light? Do we know that this light at the heart of our being is for one another and for the world?

To be bearers of light– which is pure gift and not of our own doing– means that we are made to shine. But when we truly shine, and when we work for the true shining of every child, woman, man, and creature, we find that sometimes we create discomfort in the people around us and in the holders of power in our communities and our world. Not only do they feel uncomfortable, sometimes they feel threatened. This is as true in our personal relationships and workplaces as it is in the great struggles of communities and nations...

In the power structures of our communities and nations, we need to ask who is being served by [power over] perspectives?...

We are never to forget that the light is untamable and unnamable. We are to remember that we are messengers of a Light that precedes us– from which we and all things have come– as well as a Light that will continue to

flow long after us, infinitely unfolding into forms that we know nothing of yet...That Light is here and now..."

Blessed are you who bear the light

Blessed are you
who bear the light
in unbearable times,
who testify
to its endurance
amid the unendurable,
who bear witness
to its persistence
when everything seems
in shadow
and grief.

Blessed are you
in whom
the light lives,
in whom
the brightness blazes—
your heart
a chapel,
an altar where
in the deepest night
can be seen
the fire that
shines forth in you
in unaccountable faith,
in stubborn hope,
in love that illumines
every broken thing
it finds.