



## **WOW: Word Of the Week**

### **Radiance**

**January 12, 2022**

In the world of advertising, we hear that it is possible to develop a “radiant glow” by using the right cosmetics. The Bible says one can radiate God’s “glow-ry” by adorning oneself with the gospel. The word adorn is from the Greek word “kosmeo.” Yep, that’s the root of our word cosmetics!

In 2 Corinthians 3, when Paul wanted to describe the eternal, permanent, surpassing glory of the message of Jesus in comparison to the temporary, fading glory of the message spoken by the prophets to the fathers (Heb. 1:1), he used an illustration from Exodus 34. After Moses had met with God, his face was so radiant that the Israelites could not stand to gaze at him.

Moses’ radiance was physical. In our lives today, the radiance of Christ within us may be seen both physically and spiritually, in who we are in and in what we say.

- Christians have a radiance, a glow about them (not to be confused with a halo!), an attitude, so that people want to be around them.
- Christians glorify God by their actions, by their good works.
- The church is called to be the dwelling place of God’s glory, Eph. 3:20-21, so that others see Christ’s glory and radiance in the church.
- Christians leave the assembly with a spiritual glow, a physical and spiritual radiance.
- One of my goals as a preacher has been to declare that surpassing radiance, whether transporting hearers to the scenes of Jesus’ baptism or the Transfiguration. I want to behold HIS glory; I want you to behold HIS glory, 2 Pet. 1:16-17.
- One of my goals as a preacher has been to help Christians and unbelievers see the glory of the gospel, 2 Cor. 4:1-7, a glory accentuated by the commonness of the earthen vessels from which it emanates.

The Bible speaks of Christians being “the light of the world.” Also, Jesus is the light of the world. Jesus calls his followers to be salt and light. Christians reflect the glory of God. We are not the source of light; we are reflectors of the light.

Consider Jesus’ teachings more closely. What was Jesus saying? What did he mean? We are the light of the world. Wouldn’t it be great if we lived so close to God that we developed a radiance? So that others could tell by our lives and speech that we had been with God? Acts 4:12-13. Demonstrating that we had learned the secret of his presence, so others would seek and ask?

A goal for this week. May we develop a radiance from God as we live in this world. May our lives shine. May our assemblies empower and strengthen us spiritually! May our worship—sharing conversations, prayers, remembering, hearing God’s word read and explained—develop our inner glow.

First things first. In your next time with God, in prayers, in the public prayers of the assembly.... before bombarding Him with gratitude for physical things—sun, seasons, and moisture, before starting on our lists and our multiplied requests, let us take time to seek and enter into his presence, to be awed, to marvel, to enter his throne room, to drink in his glory, to relish his presence, to contemplate his radiance, and to humbly learn his ways, so that his radiance becomes our radiance.