



WOW: Word Of the Week

Radiant

March 3, 2021

I am working on the next volume in my Bible Study Guide series, translating and explaining the text of 2 Corinthians.

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 met with God, his face was so radiant that the Israelites could not stand to gaze at him.

Moses' radiant glow was physical, but I think we can identify parallels in our lives today.

→ One of my goals as a preacher has been to declare that surpassing radiance, to transport 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.

→ One of my goals as a preacher has been to help Christians realize that the church is called to be the dwelling place of God's glory, Eph. 3:20-21.

→ I hoped that those who assembled for worship would leave with a spiritual glow, a spiritual radiance.

The Bible speaks of being "the light of the world." Jesus is the light of the world; he says his followers are called to be salt and light. Christians reflect the glory of God. In one sense, we are never the source of light, we are reflectors of the light.

But again, what did Jesus say? What did Jesus mean? Light of the world.

Wouldn't it be great if we lived so close to God that we became radiant?

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?

May we become God's radiant glow 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.

Perhaps, before bombarding Him with gratitude for physical things—sun, seasons, and spring, before starting on our lists and our multiplied requests, we should 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.