

Shine, Jesus, Shine



Jesus is easily dimmed. We can ignore him, even in the name of Christianity. Jesus does not force himself into our lives. He does not force himself into our actions or reactions. He does not force himself into the Church or churches that bear his name. His name can be spoken in expressions of worship and in expressions of cursing.

His shining is far more about us than it is about him. He will shine on us if we will receive it and reflect it. He will shine through us if we will allow it. He will shine in us if we will humble ourselves. As wonderful as this hymn is, taken at its face value alone, we might blame Jesus for the times that he doesn't shine. If we will take a moment, this moment, and ponder this beautiful hymn, we discover why Jesus doesn't always shine...and we are ashamed.

This hymn should not be sung to wake Jesus up. This hymn should not be sung so as to give Jesus permission or to give him an assignment. It should be sung as our heart-wrenching prayer of confession and commitment. It should be sung as a humble receiving that will cause us to glow with his light.

Jesus is always with us, stanza two notwithstanding. He is always with us, his love is always with us, his grace is always with us, and his forgiveness is always with us. He is shining. We choose the shadows.

"Let there be light," the last phrase of the hymn, is our last gasp of confession. With it we confess our darkness. "Let there be light" is our first breath of devotion. God has given us everything, even that phrase, and even light that is always shining; even if no more than a candle in our darkness.

Shine, Jesus, shine, in your name we pray, Amen.

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