



Back Porch Lights

“You are to live clean, innocent lives as children of God in a dark world full of crooked and perverse people. Let your lives shine brightly before them.”

The Apostle Paul | Philippians 2:15 (NLT)

Who pays attention to that little light above the back porch—the one that’s always on, the one everyone forgets to switch off?

We much prefer front porch lights, the ones that light up the house for all to see. In fact, I’ve seen many houses with spotlights flooding the entire front. These are the blatant ones that shout, “Look at my house!” Oh, how we want to impress others—to be like stars known by all!

“Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.” The Apostle Paul (Philippians 2:3)

Far different from that humble little back porch light.

But how grateful I was as an older teen coming home in the pitch of

night—thank God for that back porch light! Fumbling with my keys, how else would I have found the keyhole?

Paul urges, *be **back porch lights***—humble, quiet, behind the scenes, yet oh so valuable. Shining and always on, there for those who need us.

Reflect: Am I more like a front porch light or back porch light?

Certainly, there are those who are famous—movies, sports, authors, politicians—the stars. Constantly in the limelight, whether by inherent talent or through the vast marketing machines promoting them, they shine. These are the blatant ones shouting, “Look at my house!”

Yet we need to admit that, though few of us are famous, we—ever so subtly—strive to boost ourselves, to be seen just a little more highly. Despite our efforts to counter it, pride runs deep in us. A glance at Facebook makes it clear. Or a look at the car we drive, the clothes we wear or the way we promote ourselves at work. Even how we work to get our views heard—or take a stance by **not participating** in a conversation... the list is endless.

“All a person’s ways seem right in their own eyes, but the Lord examines the heart.” (Proverbs 16:2)

Though there is nothing inherently prideful in any of this and we generally feel right, buried behind our actions often lies a hidden selfish motive. Whether a big light or a smaller one, our prideful nature likes to promote itself—we’re all prone to be **front porch lights!**

“But those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” Jesus Christ (Matthew 23:12)

What good God would allow us to remain in the limelight?

“For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen.” The Apostle Paul (Romans 11:36)

The glory is reserved for him!

*Consider: **Back porch lights humbly radiate overshadowing light.***

There is no glory for **back porch lights**, yet they act like magnets—just look at the moths! Moths gather around lights searching for orientation. The shining local light overshadows the moon and stars, their usual guides.

Now imagine—stretching the analogy—the worldly lost as moths, their usual orientation—the world’s lights—disrupted by you: a **shining, always-on back porch light**, quietly radiating the glorious light of God through the pitch of darkness. A humble, often **taken-for-granted**, quietly shining light for those who need to find the keyhole to open true life—**salvation through Christ**.

“We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.” The Apostle Paul (2 Corinthians 4:7)

We are to be **back porch lights**—ourselves fragile and in the background, yet humbly radiating the overshadowing light of the great treasure that is Christ.

*Imagine: **A lifetime of back porch ministry.***

Back porch lights do steadfast work, quietly helping all who come near. Be careful to do good works and live properly—clean and innocently—among your neighbors. Your humility and sacrifice will be appreciated.

“Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.” The Apostle Peter (1 Peter 2:12)

But don't neglect to shine brightly before them—it's your Mission!

“Come and listen, all you who fear God, and I will tell you what he did for me.” King David (Psalm 66:16)

Though you'll often feel neglected, let your testimony remain always on—never switched off—illuminating the way, disrupting their worldly guidance. How else will those fumbling around in this dark world find the keyhole? Be a...

Back Porch Light.

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach's Questions

- **Reflect:** *“Where do I see myself trying to impress others?”* Catch yourself! Look closely and soberly.
- **Ask:** *“What steps will I take to become more humble in this area?”*
- **Challenge:** Daily, boldly offer: *“I will tell you what he did for me.”*
- Don't know my Mission? [Start here!](#)

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

My Testimony is Overshadowing Light to the World.

"They asked, "Who healed you? What happened?"

He told them, "The man they call Jesus made mud and spread it over my eyes and told me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash yourself.' So I went and washed, and now I can see!"

John 9:10-11 (NLT)



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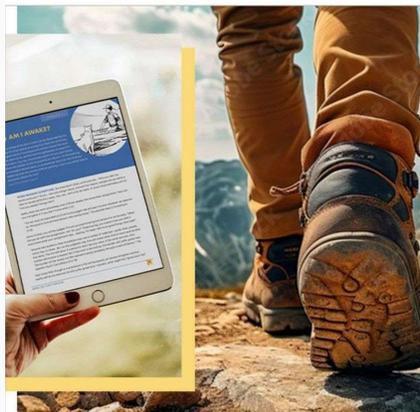
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