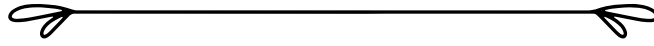


a mere reflection



Oftentimes, when I read this verse, I always thought Christians were called to be loud, bold, unashamed, and unwavering. Loud about our love for Christ so that we are seen as brave by fellow Jesus lovers. Bold about our faith, even when we don't fully understand something. We just pray for more faith. Unashamed when non-Christian friends ask why there is suffering in the world as we nervously say, "It's a part of God's plan."

However, recently, this verse has been speaking to me differently.

What is light?

When light comes from a bulb, it fills a room, yet it isn't visible. It isn't bold, but humble. We don't even realize it's there. Unless the light is too bright, an unusual color, or too dim, we never even mention it or recognize it. It lets us see what's in the room, so we can see each other and go about our day.

There's also sunlight. It rises in the morning and sets in the evening. Sunlight is shown to improve our physical and mental health. We do not hope for the sun to come. It comes every day. Even when it's cloudy, we know it's there. It's predictable, dependable, and comfortable. It brings nourishment to crops and plants which humans and animals need for survival.

These examples of light are not loud or boisterous. They are subtle, humble, yet confident. Light supports the everyday. The seeming boringness of normalcy can actually be peace and contentment.

As I've been thinking about my light, and how I lack brightness, I've been asking God to do more in me. Make my light brighter at work, church, and all my communities. I don't feel like I'm doing enough, showing enough, serving enough, not as a church member, employee, friend, sister, daughter, wife, or mother. However, as I've been preoccupied by my light's brightness (or lack of) I realized that the brightest light should belong to Christ. I am a mere reflection of the true source, and my light's "brightness meter" does not reflect my salvation.

As seasons come and go, as the sun rises and sets, our light will also brighten and dim. And a part of being okay with the dimness is obedience. I've always had trouble with normalcy and being complacent. I'm used to growing, learning, and moving my life forward. I thrive off of it because, honestly, it makes me feel like a better person. I always pictured obedience as saying "yes" when God wants you to do something loud, bold, and brave like going on missions or speaking up against injustice.

But for the first time in my life, I'm learning a new kind of obedience. God has called me to be content with where I am, and this is obedience as well. The truth is, this is my season. It's not forever, but it is right now.

So, Hebroners, what does your light look like today? Where has God called you to be in this season of your life? How bright or dim is your light and are you okay with it? Does it reflect God's light for you?