



This Little Light of Mine - by pastor Jerry

Nearly all of us are stressed by this COVID-19 pandemic. It's as if we're in a siege. Speaking of those who stand persecuted in the darkness of an unbelieving world Jesus says in Matthew 5:14, "You are the light of the world - like a city on a mountain, glowing in the night for all to see." Christians and perhaps pastors especially, are on a lamp stand right now.

It would be so easy to shutter the lamp, to give into the darkness. Don't get me wrong, I love being the heroic figure thrusting my sword of faith toward heaven claiming the power of God in Jesus Christ. And, it IS well with my soul. But, an extrovert+10 in isolation is... well, pitiful.

Most "front line" workers – doctors, nurses, medical, fire, rescue, police, counselors and pastors – are familiar with burn out. Many are beginning to ask, "What day is this?" We're dealing with the side effects of adrenaline. Our bodies and brains have been on high alert since this crisis began. And, our faith and the serotonin which adrenaline destroys are depleting.

I'm aware that some have greater reserves than others, that some are in less stress filled situations, that many don't yet directly know someone infected or who has died. A shrill faith shrieks at the wounded: "Where is your faith? Don't you trust God?" Yes. Yes, we do.

I prefer honest spiritual companions over spiritual sales men or women. A spokesman for the cause is found in Mark 9:24, The boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" We are most vulnerable through our children, our family and friends. We can soldier through our own pain but... maybe you're sensitive to others' pain, too.

This existential ache led me to reread an old favorite sermon from J. Wallace Hamilton – "Where Now Is Thy God?" Of course, this wonderful old pulpit master pulled a beautiful exposition of life's pain through the lens of Scripture. I read echoes of what I've shared and will continue to share: God is here. God cares. God is able. And, God is.

God is in the front line workers. To paraphrase J. Wallace's World War story of a despondent soldier asking a chaplain: "Where is God?" Just then a pair of corporals rushed by with a wounded soldier on a stretcher. The chaplain said, "There! There is God!"

So, to all the pastors and counselors, housewives and househusbands, moms and dads, aunts and uncles; all the medical and government workers; all the teachers and especially all of the followers of Jesus Christ – the One who put HIS Light in us – you ARE the light of the world. Yes, it's His Light we reflect weakly, honestly, and... that is enough.

John 1:4-5, "Life itself was in him, and this life gives light to everyone. The light shines through the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it."

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it SHINE!" How about you?