

7-22-2026 – WACKY WORSHIP – Lightning Bugs

Loved these as a kid. Lightning Bugs/Fireflies. Really, a beetle.

They dance thru the air, **shining** their lights to **communicate** with each other: about their location, to warn off predators, and to mate with other fireflies.

Fla – 56 species of fireflies. Grt Smokey Mtns, TN – 19 species. synchronous
Dark night, you can't miss 'em.

If God can make a bug's butt light up, think what He can do thru you.

We were **made** to **shine**!

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” – Matt. 5

1 – God put a light in us. It's there. Just as there are lightning bugs!

2 Cor. 4:6 – “For God, who said, ‘Let there be light in the darkness,’ has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.”

- Think of it this way: At **birth**, we're **infused** with light of God. All.
- **Born again?** That light should **Shine! We know the Glory? Share it!**
 - o We see God's creation – His Glory – and know where to **give Praise**.
 - o His **Glory** is in sunsets, rainbows, mountains, moon, lights; fireflies; we try to capture it in photos and then **share it** /social media.
 - We also need to share God's love. Jesus. **Pass it on.**

2 – We have a light & we have a choice.

John 8:12 - Jesus spoke to the people and said, “**I am the light of the world.**

Whoever follows Me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.”

- We have a choice to follow Jesus & choice to shine our lights.

- Jesus said, **let your light shine before others.** "Let" is a choice to allow it to happen. . . to allow God to work thru us, & SHINE.

3 – We were created to Shine.

- Some people want to follow, but they want to go unnoticed in life.
- Stay in corner. Hide. It's uncomfortable in the spotlight.

But we were created to shine. Created to Glorify God w/ works.

- **Eph. 2:10** – "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."
- **We shine through our actions for others.** Our good deeds.

Acts 9:36 – "In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor."

- Dorcas' story gets overshadowed; Peter brought her back to life.
- But in upper room (body was laid), **"All the widows stood around, weeping & showing Peter the clothes she made for them."**

▪ **What we do for others is our light;** how we'll be **remembered**

- When we hide our light . . . please God? Is that what Jesus says to do?

4 – God calls us out of our comfort zones.

Matt. 13:43 – **"the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father's Kingdom."**

- The righteous realize there is more to life than comfort; there's God. **Peter/John** were fisherman. But God called them to fish for people. **Moses** was a shepherd. God called him to lead people, not sheep. **Abraham** was called out of his homeland; greater land, be a father. **Esther** – an orphan living in exile, put in position to be Queen; save! **Paul** wanted to preach/teach. His messages were more important written down... in prison. Not a comfortable place to be.
- God doesn't want us living in a rut, just staying comfortable.
 - ***"Life begins at the end of your comfort zone."***
 - **Even to see a firefly, you have to get out of comfort.**

- Comfort zone may be an idol. Idol – anything that takes God’s place.
 - Have no other idols than God.

5 – Just Be You.

The tiniest light is **visible** in **darkness**. A firefly is tiny.

- In the same way, even the smallest act of faith in front of the world will allow Christ to be seen.
- Just be yourself. Do what you do!
 - **Phil. 2:15** – “Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.”
- Be you. Paint a picture. Make art. Play that instrument. Sing. Write.
- Sew. Cook. Fix. Clean. Create beauty. Be a comfort. Make/laugh. Compliment. Assist. Encourage. Shine. Be you.