



*The stars are constantly shining, but often
we do not see them until the dark hours.*

Shine

Another evening goes by; I have watched the sun slowly set over the Talladega National Forrest from high atop Mount Cheaha. The sky gradually changes out of her work clothes and slips into her pajamas as the sun disappears and says, “Good night” . It has been about forty minutes since the sun made his majestic exit and finally, I see my first star. Instinctively I recite what I learned as a child, “Star light, star bright, First star I see tonight, I wish I may, I wish I might, Have the wish I wish tonight.”

Then it occurs to me, have not the stars been out all day? They do not suddenly start shining when the sun sets. They have been shining just as brightly at noon as they have at midnight. The only difference is our ability to see them. We are so accustomed to the bright light of day; we are blinded to the radiance of the twinkling stars. It is only when it is dark enough, that we see the stars. We take them for granted, until the night falls.

Today, we are just as blinded to so many good things all around us. Surrounded by the light we are unable to see the stars. So many kindnesses shown to us by friends and coworkers; Freedoms the rest of the world only dreams of; We are so rich, good jobs, food only kings had in the past, education, loving families, houses, cars, clothing, health, computers, . . . ; The blinding light of so many blessings surrounds us each and every day, that we are unable to see the small kindness shown to us five minutes ago.

Sometimes we fail to appreciate just how fortunate we are until the darkness comes. Let us comprehend, be conscious of, be grateful for, and value each good thing that comes our way

today. Let us learn to say, “Thank You” more often and when we see the twinkling of the stars, may they remind us just how richly blessed we are.

Something to think about:

- ❖ In wonder-workings, or some bush aflame,
Men look for God and fancy him concealed;
But in earth’s common things he stands revealed
While grass and flowers and stars spell out his name.
- ❖ Looking through the wrong end of a telescope is an injustice to the astronomer, to the telescope, and to the stars; likewise, looking at our neighbor’s faults instead of the attributes gives us an incorrect conception of ourselves, our neighbor, and our God.
- ❖ To be glad of life because it gives you the chance to love and to work and to play and to look up at the stars—to be satisfied with your possessions but not contented with yourself until you have made the best of them—to despise nothing in the world except falsehood and meanness, and to fear nothing except cowardice—to be governed by your admirations rather than by your disgusts; to covet nothing that is your neighbor’s except his kindness of heart and gentleness of manners—to think seldom of your enemies, often of your friends, and every day of your creator—these are little guideposts on the footpath to peace.
- ❖ The people who influence us are those who have stood unconsciously for the right thing; they are like the stars and the lilies; and the joy of God flows through them.
- ❖ Goals are like stars: they may not be reached, but they can always be a guide.

Your friend with the twinkle in his eye
Rickey Moore