

## 'WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE A CHRISTIAN?'

**A woman was asked by a coworker this question. The coworker replied, 'It is like being a pumpkin.' God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see.'**

This is a great way of looking at what God has done in us. He just went ahead and "scooped out all the yucky stuff". The hardest struggle is that we keep wanting that yucky stuff back. When we keep piling it back in, we bury the light of Jesus. Then in the darkness of night we cannot provide any more light than the dirty pumpkins in the field. Our daily confession of sins, calling out the seeds of doubt, hate and fear brings about renewed forgiveness from Jesus and continual cleansing of sin from our hearts. With sins forgiven and our souls refreshed, the light of Jesus can shine brightly through our new smile.

Every time we choose to have "me" be the focus and limiting factor and context of my decisions, conversations, interactions with other people, etc., we are limiting His ability to remove the "yucky stuff" and let others benefit from the full power of His light to shine in the areas of this world that he has created us, specifically to be a beacon for Him. Each of us, as well, are specifically created and placed to be and interact with certain people and in certain situations that God has chosen us to be His lamp.

In the same way, let your **light** shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

See to it, then, that the **light** within you is not darkness. Luke 11:35

But whoever lives by the truth comes into the **light**, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God." John 3:21

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the **light** of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the **light** of life." John 8:12

I have come into the world as a **light**, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. John 12:46

For God, who said, "Let **light** shine out of darkness," made his **light** shine in our hearts to give us the **light** of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6

Psalms 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

***We are celebrating 10 years of Joe's Rocking Chair Greetings. This greeting best describes our purpose for writing them each month. I am thankful that I have had this privilege.***



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