

June 2017

From the Desk of Rev. Chuck

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Dear Friends,

June is upon us, summer is here. Some childhood memories come to mind when I think of summer. Once such memory is laying out on a blanket under the stars to sleep. I loved to gaze up at the sky and try to count all those stars and look for the shooting stars as they left a trail of bright light in the nighttime sky.

Now those memories are part of the spiritual path and journey I have chosen for myself. When I see a shooting star in the sky at night I am reminded that throughout the ages, spiritual teachers have told us to let our light, our truth, shine so that we might help illuminate the world by just being in it.

Jesus, the Christ, gave us these words that are just as true for us today as they were over 2,000 years ago:

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
(Matt 5:14-16 RSV)

In her book Our Future in the 21st Century, Margaret McCormick writes:

Each of us is a bright and shining star--a strong, powerful spiritual being capable of so much more than we take the time to realize. We are a reflection outwardly of our inner selves, and we have choice as to whether we will let that inner self grow spiritually and reflect its bright, radiant light to others. Keep your inner self bright and glowing; let it become a beacon to those who may need help and nurturing.

When our lifetime is over, we will leave our legacy to others. Each person with whom we have come in contact, each friend, each relative, will be left a piece of our bright shining star. This is our gift to them. It will merge with their inner

radiance, making it brighter.

Think of your inner radiance as a bank. You can make deposits regularly. The deposits may consist of some important lesson learned or growth that has taken place. It could consist of a good deed done for another, or just lending someone your moral support. At the end of your lifetime, your bank account will have grown tremendously if you have made regular deposits, and your shining radiance will be left for the good of all.

As you go about living your daily life, remember you are a star. A bright shining star in your own life script. Strive to make that star grow brighter and brighter with each passing day, lighting your way and the way of others.

I have often said that everyone of us is a minister in that each of us has something to give to the world. But too often we are paralyzed by **MS (Moses Syndrome)**. That's where we remember and know who we are but respond to God saying, "Why me? Sure God, I know the truth, but there are other people more equipped to do it better than me. After all what difference will I make?"

Well friends, the truth is you do make a difference, you are needed, no life is ever lived in vain. Each of us has a purpose and a place in the greater scheme of things; and God counts on you to remember who and what you are so that you may be the reflection you were meant to be. So when you look up at the night sky and see a shooting star remember to let your light shine just as bright while you can.

I leave you with this quote from Dwight L. Moody:

"We are told to let our light shine, and if it does, we won't need to tell anybody it does. Lighthouses don't fire cannons to call attention to their shining - they just shine."