

A SHINY FACE

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Sometimes our face may shine a bright red due to over-exposure of the sun, or because of an embarrassing situation. When this happens, everyone notices it, and inevitably questions are raised that get a good laugh at our expense.

Our faces tell on us—every time. We cannot escape it. One of the most fascinating pastimes for me is to sit in the car and watch as the people go by on the street. I look at their faces and questions leap out just begging to be answered. Why are those children skipping along so happily? I wonder what load he is carrying? Could I help? I wonder what kind of work she does? Does he know God? Why does that child have to be dragged along? Yes our faces do tell a story.



But there is a question I want us to explore. Should you and I have a shiny face? In Exodus 34:29-35 is recorded the event of Moses spending 40 days with God in the Mount receiving the Ten Commandments. The last part of verse 29 says **Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because of his speaking with Him.** Moses' face was radiant as a result of the time he spent with God. The Children of Israel readily noticed this and were afraid to come near him.

Can those around us, our family, our children, our students, or our colleagues see that we have been with God? Rather than being afraid of us, as were the Children of Israel, are they drawn to the Savior through our influence as they see His love reflected on our face?

Ellen White captures the essence of how we may reflect the loving rays of the Sun of righteousness. **Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work. Let your prayer be, "Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee." This is a daily matter. Each morning consecrate yourself to God for that day. Surrender all your plans to Him, to be carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate. Thus day by day you may be giving your life into the hands of God, and thus your life will be molded more and more after the life of Christ.** Steps to Christ, p. 70.

The Lord's Messenger also has very pointed counsel for parents and teachers in the book *Fundamentals of Christian Education* pages 64 to 70. We would do well to read this section often and to put into practice the stated principles. Notice! **Smile parents; smile teachers. If your heart is sad, let not your face reveal the fact. Let the sunshine from a loving, grateful heart light up the countenance. Unbend from your iron dignity, adapt yourself to the children's needs, and make them love you. You must win their affection, if you would impress religious truth upon their heart.** *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 68.

I am captivated by the statement **and make them love you**. Can one really do that? If so, how? Obviously it must be possible or she would never have said it. You will note also that the statement has finality—there is no other option. So, how does one accomplish it? I suggest you read the entire section—that’s your assignment—for the answer. Within the quotation, however, is a partial answer. **Unbend from your iron dignity, adapt yourself to the children’s needs**. No doubt this is part of what Jesus had in mind when He said **and become like children**. Matt. 18:3.

Ellen White gives additional insight on the same page. **Jesus loved the children. He remembered that He was once a child, and His benevolent countenance won the affections of the little ones. They loved to play around Him, and to stroke His loving face with their innocent hands.**

Yes, I believe our face should shine. Our face should reveal that we have spent time with God on the mount, and that He has revealed Himself to us. And as we leave the mountain to begin our work, our face will truly shine and reflect the Sun of righteousness to all with whom we come in contact.

Resources

- New American Standard Bible. Grand Rapids, Michigan. Zondervan Publishing House.
- White, Ellen G. Steps to Christ. Review and Herald Publishing Association. Takoma Park, Washington, D.C.
- White, Ellen G. Fundamentals of Christian Education. Southern Publishing Association. Nashville, Tennessee.