

Light: Candle or Coal
My reflection of message by Benham brothers
at Hope Pregnancy Banquet 2017

What light dwells in me? My soul is aflame with the light of God, but what is the character of its burning in my life. The children's song, "This Little Light of Mine" comes with motion for our bodies. We hold up one finger to indicate holding our candle and we sing the words, "won't let Satan (blow) it out." A candle is clear and visible light in a dark place, but its flame is delicate. A simple breath or wind can blow it out. The wind extinguishes its light by simply moving the flame away from the candle (its source of fuel.) The burning and light is not in the candle itself, it is only burning on the tip of its surface.

A burning coal is a different kind of light. In the stillness of dark, it will glow dim and small, sometimes hardly visible though it burns strong and sure. When it is blown on by human breath or wind, it is not extinguished like the candle flame, but instead begins to burn stronger and brighter, bursting into flame. The burning of the coal is in its very center. All of its nature, its being is aflame, and the wind adds strength to its burning.

How does the light of God burn in me? Am I like the candle brightly burning in the still and calm, but let the wind of the world blow harsh and my light flickers and is extinguished. Or am I like the coal, in the calm my light barely visible, but when the wind of the world blows harsh against me, does the light glow brighter and brighter and it burst into flame.

It is not only the wind of the world that blows in our lives. The breath of God also blows, The Holy Spirit. When the Saint blows will the light be extinguished or will it burn ever brighter?