

The Glow in the Coal

Years ago, I had the privilege of meeting a blacksmith working in a rural area of Tennessee. The man and his occupation were impressive. It was obvious that he was skilled for the career he had chosen, and his commitment – indicated by the pride in his voice as he explained the products – was fierce.

I came away from that experience with admiration for the smith and a lesson for life that he shared with me. It burns in my memory like the flames from his forge. Here is what he taught me:



When a piece of coal is placed on top of a sizzling hotbed of ashes, it soon catches the flame and begins to burn in brilliant colors as it radiates heat for long periods of time. If, however, the blacksmith took that same piece of coal away from the flame, it would quickly lose its glow and burn out. The brilliance would disappear and the heat from it would rapidly diminish. Only a big, black, useless lump of coal would remain.

How is that instructive for us today – in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home? Well, read on.

Most of us follow established routines each morning to make ourselves presentable for the day. Many would never allow certain friends or relatives to see us when we first crawl out of bed. We would rather hide than to have the “real us” exposed before we have taken a shower, shaved, made up our faces and hair, and brushed our teeth.

It is admirable that we want to present ourselves at our best. But there should also be something on the inside that radiates the Christ living within us. We ought to have a fresh, daily infusion of His power and grace. Beginning the day in the presence of the Lord guarantees His light will shine through us before others with brilliance.

Sitting at Christ’s feet and allowing Him to be our teacher before the day begins provides us with the spark that exposes areas of our lives in which the Lord needs to do His cleansing or healing or teaching work.

Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

– Beecher Hunter