

Exodus 34:33-35

33 When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. 34 But whenever he entered the Lord's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, 35 they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the LORD.

Meditation:

Moses face retained a radiant glow from being in the presence of God. My recollection of singing “This little light of mine” as a child is what initially drew me to this passage. The part of the song that says “Hide it under a bushel, NO, I’m gonna let it shine” seems to be in dispute in this text, as Moses used a veil to cover his face when not with God or speaking on God’s behalf. Moses seemed to be applying a use to the radiance as a ‘tool’ that got the attention of God’s people. Just as in the song I sang as a child this radiance was used to bring people close to God and to get their attention.

Paul speaks to this passage in 2 Corinthians 3 and lets us know that the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives brings this radiance to us and that there is now no use for a veil. Although I would ask that we consider the importance of humility and the burden of responsibility that Moses treated the radiance of God with. It seems he was mindful that this was not to be used to promote himself and instead promote God.

Paraphrase of Text:

Moses wore a veil over his face when not in God’s presence or instructing the Israelites on God’s behalf. The veil was used to hide the radiance of God left behind on Moses face as he stood in God’s presence.

Prayer:

Dear heavenly Father, please help me to remember the presence of the Holy Spirit within me. Help me to treat your radiance with the reverence that your holiness deserves. Help me as your servant to be responsible and mindful of the radiant love that your Holy Spirit wishes to display through me and to seek to promote you and not myself. In Jesus name, Amen