

You Can Shine — Thoughts

By Bryan Moyer Suderman



“You can be a star!”

Sound familiar? Let’s see — Canadian (American, British) Idol, “reality” TV, virtually any Disney movie you’d like to name...

“You can be a star!” “You can do anything, as long as you really try/believe in yourself/never give up!” This is one of our most common and treasured “popular culture” myths.

So when we read in Philippians 4:13 that “I can do all things through him who strengthens me” or that “...you shine like stars in the world” (2:15), it sounds familiar. We’ve heard that message before.

But have we?

Philippians is the letter that instructs us to “Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who...emptied himself, taking the form of a slave...humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death...” (Phil. 2:5-11)

Wait a minute. That’s “shining like a star”?

When I wrote this song, I wanted to communicate the excitement and hopefulness that we can in fact “shine like stars in the world” (2:15). I wanted to express the confidence that “...this is God’s doing” (1:28), that “it is God who is at work in you” (2:13), that “the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion...” (1:6).

And I also wanted to communicate that these are not the “shining stars” of Canadian Idol or Entertainment Tonight.

So the first verse starts with God and what God is doing, the second verse is full of possibilities for what we can do (make up your own words to put in there!), and the third verse brings us back again to the one who makes us “shine” in the first place...

You can shine! Like a star! Yes you can! Just don’t expect to be on TV...

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