

SHINING LIGHTS

I had the pleasure of living for several years in Northern California in the beautiful area of Santa Clara Valley also known as the Silicon Valley. As its name suggests, it is a bustling metropolis nestled in the midst of sprawling mountains.

From Santa Clara you meander your way through the valley up to San Francisco where you can hop the blue or red ferry and make your way past Alcatraz to Sausalito. Then you might take a leisurely drive down the Pacific Coast Highway through Pebble Beach and on to Halfmoon Bay. Pop over the mountains and you're back in the valley in the midst of the hustle and bustle.

The Bay Area truly is a sight to behold and, if you've been there, you know that it doesn't take long to figure out why it's one of the most expensive places in the world to live. To start with, the weather is perfect! 70 degrees and sunshine is what you have to look forward to day after day. Winter might as well be known as "the rainy season," although as someone once said, "The coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco!" In addition to the weather, you seem to have it all. You have the big city, the country, the mountains, stunning vineyards, and the Pacific Ocean all wrapped up in one neat little package.

On the other hand, if you're from Hutchinson, there are three things you'll miss in a place like the Santa Clara Valley. First, you'll miss the booming voice and light show of a thunderstorm. For some reason, thunderstorms never seem to reach the valley. Second, you'll miss the beauty of a Kansas sunset where the canvas of the sky is swathed in glowing pink, orange, purple and blue. The mountains always seem to provide adequate cover, allowing the California sun to steal away without a trace. Third, you'll miss the wonder of a tiny little creature that we take for granted; the firefly, a.k.a. lightning bug. In all the years I lived in the valley I don't think I saw one lightning bug! What a tragedy!

There's just something about the firefly that makes one's heart sing. Just turn a child loose on a summer's evening when the little emitters of light are doing their thing and listen for the squeals of delight. You never have to worry about whether lightning bug will light up. He just does! It's how he's made! To not light up would be against the very fiber of his being!

The Bible tells us in Matthew 5:16; "Let your light shine before others in such a way that they will see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven." As a child of God, you too have a light to shine. It's how you're made and built in to your DNA. You don't have to work it up. You just let it shine and others will give glory to God!