

The presence of God in the radiant glow of a candle

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I have known candles are special: on a cake for a birthday, at the onset of Advent the candles of *Hope, Love, Joy, Peace, and Christmas*, on the table at a special formal dinner, when people gather for a time of prayer. Some of life's most special moments are captured within the radiant glow of a candle.

But my appreciation of candles deepened when each and every time our class met, a candle was lit signifying the *Presence of God* in and among us. I never really experienced God in that way before. I had never known what a tiny beam of fire could do for my spiritual self. The special moments mentioned above and the way a candle added to them was evident more now than ever before. The peace of God came to me and became my *blessing*. Now whenever I see a candle burning I am reminded of a Bible verse discussed in class, *Be Still and KNOW that I am God*. I breathe in and am filled with the fragrance of peace and God's presence. I am grateful for my experiences from the class.