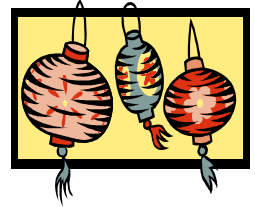


## Paper Lanterns

Patsy Rowe

This can be used in place of a Halloween program or as a summer time patio party



### Preparations:

Decorate with various types of party lanterns

Make your own table lanterns (see below)

Vocalist, Youtube performance or song sheet: *Light of the World (Here I am to Worship)*

### Introduction:

Paper lanterns come in various shapes and sizes, ranging from small coverings over stringed lights to large luminous lanterns found in temples or for show at festivals; also in a simple form they can be made of a paper bag with a candle inside or they can be quite intricately made with collapsible bamboo or wire frames.

Paper lanterns are quite common in the eastern countries of China and Japan, where they are a symbol of celebration and joy. Today, we find the paper lanterns adorning patios and used as part of the decorations at various types of parties.

### Craft Project:        Make table lanterns

Various types of lantern crafts can be found online.

One that looks really great is found at: <http://www.iyingmai.com/make-paper-lanterns.html>

Game:        **Unscramble the Words Associated with Lanterns**

CRIE APEPR _____	ITAMEURIN GHILTS _____
PENAJEAS _____	TAFISVESL _____
NICSEEH _____	KYS TALRNESN _____
REPPA GBAS _____	MAOBOB _____
DAGNER _____	TIPAO _____
DECLAN _____	BETAL _____

Rice paper, miniature lights, japanese, festivals, chinese, sky lanterns, paper bags, bamboo, garden, patio, candle, table

### Poem:

#### *Paper Lantern*

Patsy Rowe

Lighting the darkness  
Hanging from a prominent place  
You gently move in the breeze  
Bringing joy to my face

Shining in splendor  
Joy is your symbolization  
We laugh and sing within your light  
Lantern of celebration



**Song:** *Light of the World (Here I am to Worship)*

written by Tom Hughes

**Devotional:** **Your Word—A Lamp**

Psalm 119: 105 (NLT)      *“Your word is a lamp to guide my feet, and a light for my path.”*

**Everlasting Guidance**

*My footsteps slowed upon the uneven terrain.  
The evening shadows quickly closed and darkness came.  
I knew the path lay before me, but I could not see.  
I needed someone to guide me safely home.*

*A lamp— was what I needed  
A light — for my salvation  
A lamp—to guide my feet  
A light—to make the path bright.    (to be continued at end of devotional)*

Patsy Rowe



The words of this poem remind us about the practicality of the Word of God as found in Psalm 119: 105—*“Your word is a lamp to guide my feet, and a light for my path.”* Unless you live in a country setting with no neighbors nearby, the chances of walking in the darkness hardly exists. In fact, those of us who live in cities or towns have become so used to having a street light on, that we don’t even notice it doing its job - until it ceases to work! These street lanterns have taken away some of our fears of not being able to see the steps that lie before it, and so we are often quite willing to venture out at night without the aid of any other light.

What is the purpose of a light, a lantern? As I look at Psalm 119: 105, I am caused to consider the two-fold function it presents in its two phrases:

1. Your word is a lamp to guide my feet:

The actions many people take—where our feet go—is determined by our will and our preferred chosen destination. However, the psalmist tells us those who read the Word of God, can be influenced by its instruction. When read and obey the word of God, it has the ability to guide our feet in ways that are safe for us to go, which might not necessarily be our will or our preferred destination.

Think about the predicament we would be in if, while walking down a dark path, we were to step on the uneven terrain, causing us to twist a foot so bad that we could no longer walk; or, as is the case in some countries, if we could not see our feet, we stepped on a slithering creature that might cause us injury. With a trustworthy light to guide our feet, even before we take a step, we are assured that there is less likelihood of stepping into danger; this is what God provides for us through His Word, if we choose to read and obey it.

Besides writing about our feet, the psalmist also writes about the path.

2. Your word is a light for my path:

The footpaths that people choose to take has often been already determined by those who have gone before us. Sure, there is the occasion when we may be tempted to forge a new path across a field; but we are creatures who want to ‘take the path of least resistance’ and so, the reality is that we will most likely follow a path that already exists rather than making a new one. Well, the psalmist does not specify if we are following an existing path or if we are creating a new one. But, in the scheme of things that doesn’t really matter, for risks exist when taking an existing path or making a new one. What does matters is that those

who rely upon the word of God are given the assurance that it provides a light for the path. In our life experiences, whether the path is well-worn or new, rocky or smooth, easy or difficult to follow, those who read and are determined to obey the Word of God knows that it provide us with the best illumination as we proceed through life.

As we read Psalm 119: 105, the questions that confront us from its message are these:

1. Do we believe there is a *God-* who has given us his word?
2. Do we believe that the *Word* of God is trustworthy?
3. Do we *read* the Word of God?
4. Do we *obey* the Word of God?
5. As a Christian people, do we *trust* God, who sent Jesus (Living Word) to be the lamp to guide our feet and a light for our path?

These are three possible answers to these questions: yes, no, sometimes. Whatever the differences in our answers, the fact remains that God's word *is* a lamp and a light. The onus is on each of us to resolve for it to be a personal experience: "Your word is a lamp to guide *my* feet and a light for *my* path." May we choose God *and* His Word to influence the way we live life.

### His Guidance

Patsy Rowe

*My footsteps slowed upon the uneven terrain;  
The evening shadows quickly closed and darkness came;  
I knew the path lay before me, but I could not see;  
I needed someone to guide me safely home.*

*A lamp— was what I needed  
A light — for my salvation  
A lamp —to guide my feet  
A light —to make the path bright*

*I looked before me and there I saw the Savior;  
His very countenance shone upon the way;  
He beckoned me to come, and so I followed;  
He was the Someone who guided me safely home.*

*A lamp—He was provided  
A light—He was my salvation  
A lamp—He guided my feet  
A light—He made my path bright*

*Today, The Word continues to guide me,  
Although the way is sometimes difficult to see;  
My feet stumble upon the uneven terrain,  
Yet I still follow because I believe in Him.*

*A lamp—He is my provision  
A light—He my salvation is  
A lamp—He always guides me  
A light—He makes my path bright*



**Song:** *He Leadeth Me*

(Salvation Army Songbook # 725)

**Prayer:**

God of Light— who shone in the darkness  
We give daily thanks for all you do and say;  
In you we trust, you are our provision  
You turn our darkness into day.

Light of God—Jesus, the Living Word  
Touch our lives and make everything ok;  
In you we live, and move and have our being  
And so we come to you today.

Lamp of God—most precious Holy Spirit,  
Dwell within us, transform our lives your way  
You light our path, and show the way before us  
Guide thou our footsteps, come what may.

Patsy Rowe



Amen