

ALL THE LIGHT

Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

PSALM 51:7 ICB

Catch a snowflake on your mitten, and it looks like a tiny crystal jewel. A clear crystal jewel. So why does snow on the ground—or rolled up into a snowman—look white?

First, let's look at that single snowflake. It's clear because it's made of ice crystals. As many as 200 ice crystals in just one snowflake! And since it takes about a bajillion snowflakes to make a pile of snow, imagine how many ice



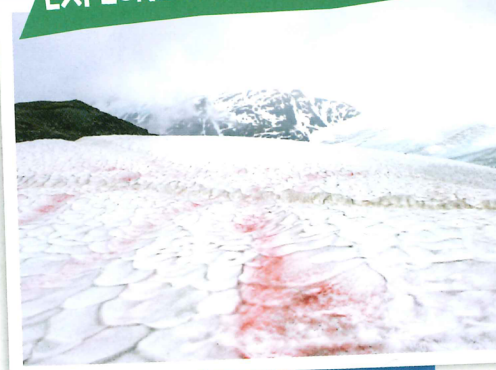
crystals that is. At least a gazillion! When light hits all those crystals, they reflect it all back like so many shiny little mirrors.

Now, light is made up of all the different colors. When light hits most objects, some colors are absorbed, or soaked up. Others are reflected back. For example, a yellow flower soaks up all the light *except* yellow, so you see yellow. Snow doesn't absorb any colors. It reflects them *all* back. And when all the colors of light are added together, they look white. That's why snow looks white.

We should be like snow. I don't mean cold and icy—I mean we should reflect back *all* the light. You see, God shines the light of His love into our lives. When we try to love others the way He loves us—to be kind, gentle, patient, and forgiving—we reflect that light. The more we love, the more light we reflect. So let's be like snow! How can you reflect God's light into the world today?

God, it's hard to even understand how much You love me, but I'm so thankful You do. Help me to shine by loving others the way You love me. Amen.

EXPLORE THE WONDER



Watermelon snow in Alaska

Snow isn't *always* white. When large amounts of snow get packed together, it can have a blueish color instead. (Use a stick to poke a hole in a snowbank, and you might see that faint blue color.) Snow can even be pink or red! That's called watermelon snow, and it's usually found high in the mountains. The color comes from red algae. So even though it looks like candy, it's definitely not tasty!