

## One Shining Moment

The clock shows double zero, the scoreboard horn blows, confetti streams from the rafters and the NCAA basketball champs are crowned. As the television coverage prepares to sign off they show their traditional “One Shining Moment” video. It contains scenes of the three week basketball tournament, including not only exciting plays and “ups and downs” of the tournament, but also the hard work that goes into playing championship basketball. It is all choreographed to the words of the song. Inevitably, the final image shows the moment of victory and jubilation of the victors.



Even if you wanted a different team to win, the One Shining Moment video leaves the viewer with pleasant memories. Only one team can win the crown on the basketball court. Thankfully, God’s victory platform has more than one winner. All baptized believers who accept that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and rose from the dead will experience God’s coronation. You can cut down the nets.

Listen to some of the lyrics of the signature song: *“The ball is tipped and there you are; you’re running for your life. You’re a shooting star and all the years no one knows just how hard you worked. But, now it shows, in one shining moment, it’s all on the line. One shining moment, there frozen in time.”* For many of us our prayers are done behind closed doors and good deeds are just between you and the person you helped. God doesn’t want us to be “showy” with our faith. He knows if you did those good deeds because of your faith. In God’s eyes, the results of your life are frozen in time, and He will acknowledge them. *Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?” Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent” (John 6:28-29).*

A line in the song that keeps repeating is *“You always did your best.”* Perhaps that is the song’s acknowledgement that there is more than one winner. Teams that played well in the tournament can be proud of their accomplishment. Our best is good enough if, with God’s help, you are willing to stretch your efforts. The song’s final verse says to *“feel the beat of your heart, feel the wind in your face. It’s more than a contest; it’s more than a race. And when it’s done, win or lose, you always did your best. ‘cuz inside you knew, that one shining moment, you reached for the sky.”* You can reach into the sky toward God.

So, picture yourself meeting the Heavenly Father. He plays the One Shining Moment video of your journey, showing the tumbles and falls of your life, but ending up with the coronation of a true champion – a champion for Christ. It is your shining moment, captured for eternity.

**Question:** How can you live your life in a way that creates highlight moments God will want to replay in your “One Shining Moment” account of your life?

**Scripture:** *I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14)*

**Prayer:** We thank you Lord, for giving us the opportunity to work hard for your purposes, to share our faith with others and to be a shining example of a God-filled life. Amen.

*Lyrics to One Shining Moment*

The ball is tipped  
And there you are  
You're running for your life  
You're a shooting star  
And all the years  
No one knows  
Just how hard you worked  
But now it shows...  
(in) one shining moment, it's all on the line  
One shining moment, there frozen in time

But time is short  
And the road is long  
In the blinking of an eye  
Ah, that moment's gone  
And when it's done  
Win or lose  
You always did your best  
'Cuz inside you knew...  
(that) one shining moment you reached deep inside  
One shining moment, you knew you were alive

Feel the beat of your heart  
Feel the wind in your face  
It's more than a contest  
It's more than a race...  
And when it's done  
Win or lose  
You always did your best  
'Cuz inside you knew...  
(that) one shining moment, you reached for the sky  
One shining moment, you knew  
One shining moment, you were willing to try  
One shining moment

Written by David Barrett  
CBS televised version sung by Luther Vandross