

Darkness

The Enemy Part 3: World Forces of this Darkness

Day 24 The Enemy Part 3: World Forces of this Darkness

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

I wanted to explore this idea of darkness. The Outline of Biblical Usage defines it as:

darkness

of night darkness

of darkened eyesight or blindness

metaph.

of ignorance respecting divine things and human duties, and the accompanying ungodliness and immorality, together with their consequent misery in hell

persons in whom darkness becomes visible and holds sway

So we know that our struggle isn't against fleshly adversaries. These forces of darkness must be spiritual also, like the principalities and powers.

*He watches over the feet of His godly ones,
But the wicked ones are silenced in darkness;
For not by might shall a person prevail.--1 Samuel 2: 9-10*

God lets the wicked fall down into this darkness, this ignorance of godly things, this immorality. Those who are Godly, who follow after Jesus closely, prevail over the wicked ones, but not by might. What might be the method of this prevail? Perhaps it is the opposite of what the ungodly are doing. We can seek knowledge of godly things and shrink our ignorance. We do this by studying the Word of God. This is our sword. We

can live moral lives instead of being steeped in immorality. This is our breastplate. And of course being in prayer at all times is a powerful weapon against the darkness.

*Who is among you who fears the Lord,
Who obeys the voice of His servant,
Who walks in darkness and has no light?
Let him trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God. --Isaiah 50:10*

Also obedience and trust mark those who are not in darkness. This is our shield of faith.

*Give glory to the Lord your God
Before He brings darkness
And before your feet stumble
On the mountains in the dark,
And while you are hoping for light
He makes it into gloom,
And turns it into thick darkness.
--Jeremiah 13:16*

Praise, giving God glory is a powerful way to walk closely with God. It seems from this verse that darkness can be a punishment from God. Like the spiritual blindness that God has inflicted on people, this too keeps people in ignorance.

*John 8:12
Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; the one who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."*

Here again if one wants to remain in the light, they need to keep following after Jesus. It doesn't help to follow a few steps then trail off. You need to stay with him!

16 But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you as a servant and a witness not only to the things in which you have seen Me, but also to the things in which I will appear to you, 17 rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, 18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.' --Acts 26

We were all once in the darkness and in the power of Satan. Repentance and receiving forgiveness brought us into God's light. We keep in the light by our faith in God.

Romans 13:12

The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let's rid ourselves of the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

There is even more armor we can put on! We can eschew the ignorance of God, and immorality, and put on the armor of light.

6 See that no one deceives you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not become partners with them; 8 for you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 as you try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Do not participate in the useless deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; 12 for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. – Ephesians 5

Part of our job, then, is exposing the works of darkness. Truth is a powerful force against all that wishes to remain hidden in the darkness.

Day 24 Prayer

Father, help me to gird up my loins with the truth. Help me to know the truth and to know more about godly things. Please help me to expose the wicked immoral deeds done in darkness, and thereby push the darkness back.

Lord, please help me to put on the breastplate of righteousness. Help me to throw off any works of darkness left in me. Help me to put on the armor of light. Forgive me of all my sins and lead me into the light always.

God, help me to get my feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace. Use me to help others come out of the darkness into your great light.

Father, please help me to take up the shield of faith. It is through faith in You that the forces of darkness are defeated. Help me to grow my faith. Help me to trust and obey you always.

Lord, help me to put on the helmet of salvation. Salvation, accomplished by Jesus on the cross, allowed me to come out of darkness into the light. Thank you for your salvation. Thank you for your light.

Father, help me to take up there sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Knowing your word is vital to the knowledge of God. Let me pursue that knowledge with zeal. Help me to understand your word and push back any darkness remaining in me.

