

# Light

Devotional



*Or where can I flee from Your presence?...  
If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are  
there. Psalm 139:7, 8.*

Isn't that amazing. The world says, "You made your bed, now you have to lie in it," but not God. The world likes to rub your nose in your mistakes and failures. The world likes to watch you suffer for your mistakes. The world wants to see revenge for your wrongdoings, but God is merciful. God says, "Okay, you messed up again, but it's alright. I'm right here with you." Notice, David doesn't say that God takes him out of hell, that is, his trials, but God comes into the midst of his trials. No, God may not always remove you from your circumstances, but He will enter into your circumstances. Just as Jesus came down to this world and suffered for us on the cross, He will come down into the little messes of our lives and suffer through them with us. So you've made a mess out of your life. God may fix it, or He may not fix it for you, but He will stay right there and go through it with you.

*And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. Matthew 17:8.*

When the Twin Towers in New York City fell, some saw only dust and twisted metal in the midst of the tragedy, but others saw iron bars twisted into crosses. That's the difference between the Christian and the non-Christian. In everything, the Christian sees the cross. Some, in the midst of tragedy, shake their fist at heaven and blame God, but Christians see the cross in the midst of tragedy and recognize that we brought suffering on ourselves and God is the victim of our sin. No, Jesus doesn't cause tragedy, but He stands with us in the midst of our tragedy. And when your world crumbles around you, look up. When you have a bad day. When everyone else leaves you. When the world lets you down. When lovers run off and friends betray you, Jesus is there. All the world may leave you sitting in the dust and the rubble of your own tragedy, but lift up your eyes because Jesus is there. When everyone else leaves, Jesus stays. Jesus only.

*I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works. Psalm 139:13, 14.*

Evolution teaches us that our lives are just an accident. That life has no real meaning at all. It diminishes our value and true sense of self-worth. It troubles me that so many professors tell young people that they are the result of evolutionary processes. Being taught that we are merely freak accidents of nature, we cannot help but conclude that our lives have no real true meaning or purpose. In essence, we are just blobs of mass. Valueless. If this is true, then what is the purpose of life? Fortunately, the Bible offers us more than this. Because of flaws in the evolutionary theory, many scientists are beginning to conclude that life isn't a cosmic accident and that there must be a bigger purpose behind it all. That's right. In spite of what you may have been told, your life is not an accident. You are not here by chance. You were hand-made by God. You are valuable, and God has a purpose for your life.

***But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to Him. 1 Corinthians 2:14.***

So often, I hear people ask questions like, what is the big deal about one little lie? Or, what's so bad about pornography or getting drunk? While I could explain what's wrong with these from a scientific, non-religious viewpoint, it still wouldn't make a difference to most. No amount of evidence will be able to dissuade some because, as they say, 'a person convinced against their will is of the same opinion still.' Many refuse to listen to reason because "they did not receive the love of the truth...but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thes. 2:10). They do not love truth because they love their sins. When the Bible warns against the dangers of sin, many will not listen to reason. They cannot understand. Talk of sin is "foolishness" if we have not received the Spirit, but when we are ready to follow God, His Spirit will show us the right path to take, and it will all begin to make sense (John 7:17).

*I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future. Jeremiah 29:11*

Many have the idea that God is out to get them. They feel as if God is just waiting for them to mess up so He can punish them, but the Bible gives a different picture of God. It reveals a God who is “merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty” (Exodus 34:6, 7). While God does have to punish the guilty, the Bible reveals a God who is merciful. A God who is on our side. A God who is rooting for us. Cheering us on. Like a parent, God loves us and has great plans for each and every person alive. God has already laid out the best path for your life. If you will seek His guidance, He will show you that path and lead you. If you will only seek God to help you fulfill His purpose for your life, He will give you the best life you could possibly have.

***Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth. Revelation 14:7***

We have been taught by popular slogans in the past to have “No fear,” but there are times when fear is appropriate. If you were waiting for a train to go on a trip, you would probably not be afraid of the train. On the contrary. You would be happy to see the train. However, if someone pushed you on the tracks as the train was approaching, that same train that caused you joy would suddenly cause you fear. In the same way, while the coming of Christ and the end of the world should bring Christians a sense of joy, those who have fallen into sin and are unprepared for Jesus should have a certain sense of fear. What is troubling is that many living in sin today are unafraid. They have no fear of God even though they are sitting on the tracks watching the approaching train. As a result, God is trying to awaken us out of our comfortable sleep to a sense of godly fear to prepare for the judgment.

Couldn't you use a little hope?

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