

When Darkness Comes

A dark, atmospheric landscape with a large, leafless tree in the foreground and a bright light source in the sky. The scene is rendered in a high-contrast, almost monochromatic style, with deep blacks and bright whites. The tree's branches are silhouetted against the lighter sky. In the background, there are rolling hills or mountains, and a bright light source, possibly the sun or moon, is visible in the sky, creating a strong glow and casting long shadows. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

Isaiah 50:10-11

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10 "Who among you 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 upon his God. 11 Look, all you who kindle a fire, Who encircle yourselves with sparks: Walk in the light of your fire and in the sparks you have kindled-- This you shall have from My hand: You shall lie down in torment.

Introduction

Even the most faithful will have times when we fall in darkness

Why? No simple answer.

What do you do when the lights go out?

Here are 5 observations about the darkness that may come into your life.

1 Even the Faithful

Job – Job 19:8 He has fenced up my way, so that I cannot pass; And He has set darkness in my paths.

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Habakkuk – Habakkuk 1:2 O Lord, how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? Even cry out to You, "Violence!" And You will not save.

1 Even the Faithful

Paul – 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 8 We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed--

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Jesus – Matthew 26:38 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."

2 Faith – Matures in the dark

Faith is born in the light

But faith matures in the darkness

John Milton – blind – Paradise Lost

Apostle John – in exile – Revelation

Beethoven – deaf – wrote music

3 How does faith mature?

Isaiah 50:10 Let him trust in the name of the Lord
And rely upon his God.

Look to the Lord

Trust in Him

Some things can only be seen in the dark

4 Darkness may be better

It is better to lean on God in the dark than standing alone in the light

Light can be deceptive

Abraham tried to help God

Moses killed an Egyptian instead of waiting on God

5 Has your sun set?

It will rise again.

Isaiah 50:4 The Lord God has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak A word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear To hear as the learned.

5 Has your sun set?

It will rise again.

Psalm 30:5b Weeping may endure for a night,
But joy comes in the morning.

Psalm 112:4 Unto the upright there arises light in
the darkness; He is gracious, and full of
compassion, and righteous.