
There is no darkness in God. No shadow in Him. God cannot be intimidated by darkness. He is not overcome by it. And yet... He can be near darkness. He can abide with it. He's so secure in His goodness He can be a "friend of sinners." He can't be defiled. And this is the very salvation He has given to us... We are in the world, but not of it (John 17:15-16).

I. AWAKE, AWAKE OH SLEEPER

- A. The other night as I prayed, I was thinking of the incredible patience of God in my life. As I poured out my soul before the Lord, I was overwhelmed as I considered his faithfulness towards me. There is a gentleness in God that disarms me at my core. He broods over my life and gently awakens me to love.
- B. And while there have been times when He sounded an alarm over my soul, warning me of danger...I can think of years where He has hovered over me and wooed me into love. His first choice in our lives is not to come with a hammer, but to come with a whisper.

Ephesians 5

13 But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, 14 for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

- C. There is a patience and God that is so unexpected, that we may misinterpret His heart simply because we don't know how to account for His gentleness. We may wrongly assume that He is not passionate in His love, but rather tolerant towards our indifference. This would be the gravest of all errors.

2 Peter 3

9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

- D. Many preach that Jesus went to the cross to save us from hell... No! Jesus went to the cross to save us from our sin!!! Don't mistake His gentleness for tolerance of darkness in you. He came to save you from sin! Without Jesus, you are stuck in your sins with no hope in the world. The power of His blood to cleanse you and not only that... to transform you! The blood of Jesus is the greatest power in the universe.
- E. I want you to consider the Person of the Holy Spirit. Think about His role over the ages.

Genesis 1

1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

- F. Hovers over the deep waiting for the command of Christ. He broods. He hovers. He is not overcome by darkness in the wait...
- G. I want you to consider what this means in your life. He is not daunted by the dark places in you. He is not intimidated by your issues. He has been over dark places before! Consider His experiences. And

meditate on this...that the “same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead, lives in you.” Darkness is no match for God!

Psalm 139

1 O Lord, you have searched me and known me! 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. 3 You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. 4 Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. 5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

7 Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! 9 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,” 12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

II. RELEASE THE COMMAND

Genesis 1

1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

- A. The Spirit was waiting for the command. And at the command, literally the Word of God, the Spirit overcame darkness! The Spirit is in place today...He awaits the command. He is perfectly able... “And there was light.”

Isaiah 55

10 “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

- B. As I considered these things the other night in prayer, I began to cry out for the Lord to release His command once again. In my life, in your life, in Orlando... in America. Surely we are in a great darkness! And as I cried out, the Lord spoke to me in a powerful way. I cried, “Lord, release your command.” And He said to me, “You release the Word.”
- C. I was cut to the heart. With the weight of God on me, immediately I recalled this passage of Moses standing before the Red Sea...literally the entire nation of Israel behind him, their lives hanging in the balance.

Exodus 14

10 When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the Lord. 11 They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? 12 Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to

die in the wilderness.” 13 And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. 14 The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”

15 The Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. 16 Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. 17 And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. 18 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”

19 Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, 20 coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. 22 And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

- D. Nations hang in the balance today. May God deal with our fear, weakness and even false notions of humility and grip our hearts! God is longing for partnership with us. Have we heard Him say, “Why do you cry to me?” We are helping the army move forward, and He is taking care of the enemy that wants to annihilate us.

III. SONS OF GOD

- A. I don’t know if we have any idea of the magnitude of the call of God on our lives. I’m not sure if we have tapped into the reality of the authority that has been given to us as believers, and adopted sons of God. There is so much more! Your life is about to drastically change! Many of us have been lulled to sleep... we’re sleep walking through life. We’ve stopped believing. We’ve stopped hoping. Awake, Awake Oh Sleeper!!!

Matthew 16

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

John 20

21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

- B. You have an incredible role in the eternal destiny of nations. It's time to wake up. You have been positioned to release the command. You have been positioned to declare that things that aren't as the things that are.

2 Corinthians 5

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

- C. Are you letting this sink in? God is making an appeal through you!!! What kind of God would do that? The end of the chapter is not, JESUS SAVES... That's the beginning. JESUS PARTNERS! Release the command, "Let there be light."

IV. SOULS! SOULS! SOULS!

Matthew 9

35 And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

- A. We have prayed. We have earnestly asked the Lord to send out laborers. And this is right and this is good. But I want you to see the very next verse. Literally, the next verse says this:

Matthew 10

1 And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.

- B. The guys who prayed, were the guys who went! It's time for action!!! The whole thing starts with a cry, but it can't end there. We must lift our voice and release the command of the Lord. We are the laborers God is raising up. It's time to get equipped. We need to deal with our excuses. Anything and everything that rises up in our hearts to disqualify us from the call must be dealt with and surrendered to Jesus.

- C. My prayer and declaration is becoming more resolute everyday... "All of America!"

Psalm 2

7 I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.

- D. Jesus has asked the Father for nations. This must be our prayer too.