



she loves

Devotional

November 2, 2009

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS, by *Monica Carsience*

We are coming up to the dark days of the year when we find ourselves longing for the warmth and light of the sun. Many of us find this time of year hard as we struggle to get up in the dark and shake off the depressing mood that the weather can sometimes bring.

Darkness is something that has an effect on all of us, but what I find amazing is that even one light can banish the darkness and bring warmth and radiance to the scene! Even thinking about the light and warmth of the sun can change our mood and encourage our hearts. When trying to cross a room in the dark, I have discovered that I am less fearful if I close my eyes (since I can't really see anyway) and imagine the room as it looks when brightly lit. I actually do better in the dark when I focus on what I remember of the light.

Where is your Light source? What do you remember of the Light that will help you walk through the darkness?

The Bible is alive with "Light". The Psalmist says that the Bible is a light that guides him on his way in life. He says, "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" Psalm 119:105 and later in verse 130 he says "The unfolding of your word gives light; it gives understanding to the simple". Apparently you don't have to be especially clever to benefit from the light that the Bible gives! It is vital that we read, know, and memorize scripture from the Bible. When we have Bible verses and passages within us, the Holy Spirit can bring them to our memory in dark times so that we will remember the Light and live in it.

God reveals Himself as "Light" throughout the scriptures. Think of the children of Israel when God led them out of Egypt. He was present with them as a pillar of cloud that became a bright pillar of fire at night so that they were never in darkness. John proclaims that, "God is light: in Him is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin" 1 John 1:5-7

Jesus is described as "Light" by John in the first chapter of his gospel where he says "Life itself was in Him, and this life gives light to everyone. The light shines through the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it." Matthew points out the fact that Jesus fulfills the prophesy spoken in Isaiah 9:1b & 2 which says, "...but in the future He will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by way of the sea, along the Jordan—The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." Jesus declares himself "the light" in John 8:12 saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

How about us? If we believe in Jesus Christ and have accepted His gift of forgiveness then, not only are we saved but, we have his Holy Spirit within us. That means we carry His light in our hearts and Jesus clearly wants us to show it. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells us, "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16

So, in these dark days, ask God to help you to shine His light in good and practical ways. May God's light be so brilliant in you that others are directed to Him—the One who has overcome the darkness!

Blessing, on behalf of the Northview Women's Commission,

Monica Carscience

Healing Hearts, Prayer for Purity