

# THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE SERIES

DEVELOPING A LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER WNX-509    APRIL 07, 2010

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

## THE DISCIPLINES OF DARKNESS

*A PRACTICAL SERIES ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES  
AND HOW WE SHOULD BE LIVING IN THE WORLD AROUND US*

Part 4 of a 31 Week Series

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Discipleship, Faith, Fear, Wisdom, Perseverance**

**Introduction to the Text;      Isaiah 50:10**

**The Theme and Textual Summation of the Passage**

# THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE SERIES

DEVELOPING A SPIRITUAL LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

## Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **:19 Go therefore and make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **:20 teaching them to observe all things** that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

## Isaiah 50:10

Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the word of his servant? Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on God.

Maybe you remember growing up and  
being afraid of the dark?

Darkness is, by nature, a fearful thing.

*(normal human nature is to avoid the darkness)*

**As Christians, what is meant by “darkness and light” and  
how do these opposing influences affect us in our  
day to day Christian life ?**

Regarding the “Preaching or Proclamation” of the Gospel – It is  
the Power of God to Divide Darkness from Light

**Acts 26:18**

To open their eyes, and to turn them from **darkness** to light, and from the power  
of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins,

**Colossians 1:9b**

be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;  
:10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in  
every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

**Ephesians 5:17**

Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*.

**THE THINGS OF THE DARK ARE UNAVOIDABLE  
THEY'RE POWERFUL FOR OUR OWN SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT**

“What God has spoken to us in the Light,  
we must never forget in the dark”

**THE DISCIPLINES OF DARKNESS**

**1.) Learn the difference between the two**

According to the Bible,  
There's a spiritual difference between light and  
darkness.

### 1 John 3:8-13

He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. :9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. :10 In this the children of God and the **children of the** devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor *is* he who does not love his brother. :11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, :12 not as Cain *who* was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. :13 Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.

### Romans 1:18-22

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, :19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. :20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, :21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish **hearts were darkened**. :22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

### 1 Corinthians 4:5

The Lord will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts.

## THE DISCIPLINES OF DARKNESS

### 2.) **Recognize what's in the dark**

According to the Bible,  
What are those things that live in the dark?

## “ALL MANNER OF SIN”

PRIDE, HATRED, VIOLENCE, IMMORALITY, LIES, GOSSIP...

### **Galatians 5:19-23**

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, :20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, :21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revellies, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. :

**22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, :23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

### The Gospel Attacks Spiritual Ignorance

#### **Matthew 4:15**

“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: :16 The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned.”

## THE DISCIPLINES OF DARKNESS

### **3.) Avoid those dark things**

According to the Bible,  
How do we avoid those things of the dark?

By “loading up” our hearts and minds with scripture

#### **Ephesians 5:11-14**

have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*. :12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. :13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. :14 Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.”

Do not go to - nor do those things that once destroyed you.

#### **2 Corinthians 6:14**

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

### **Genesis 39:9-12**

No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?” :10 And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her. :11 One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. :12 She caught him by his cloak and said, “Come to bed with me!” But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

## THE DISCIPLINES OF DARKNESS

### **4.) Know the dangers of the night**

**According to the Bible,  
What are the dangers of walking in the  
dark?**

### **Matthew 6:22—23**

“The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. :23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great *is* that darkness!

### **Proverbs 1:10-18**

My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them. :11 If they say, “Come along with us; let’s lie in wait for someone’s blood, let’s waylay some harmless soul; :12 let’s swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; :13 we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder; :14 throw in your lot with us, and we will share a common purse” — :15 my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths; :16 for their feet rush into sin, they are swift to shed blood. :17 How useless to spread a net in full view of all the birds! :18 These men lie in wait for their own blood; they waylay only themselves!

Things That Go On After Dark – *after the fear of God is removed !!!*

## THE DISCIPLINES OF DARKNESS

### 5.) Discern the right path to take

**According to the Bible,  
What are the benefits of walking in the  
light?**

In ancient times, there was once a book called the  
yellow pages.  
and they had a saying, a jingle, "let your fingers do  
the walking"

**Let your Bible do the talking**

#### **Freedom**

##### **Romans 13:11-14**

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. :12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. :13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. :14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make **no provision** for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

#### **Unity**

##### **1 John 1:5-7a**

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. :6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. :7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have **fellowship** with one another,

#### **Revival**

##### **1 John 1:7b-9**

and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. :8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. :9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## THE DISCIPLINES OF DARKNESS

### 6.) Walk in the light

According to the Bible,  
We are commanded to walk in the  
light.

I can hear my mom's voice in my head saying...  
"Jack - Be home before it gets - - dark"

#### 2 Corinthians 4:6-7

For it is God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. :7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

#### Colossians 1:12-13

giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. :13 for He has delivered us from the power of darkness

#### John 12:35

Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. :36 While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."

#### John 12:46

I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.

## THE DISCIPLINES OF DARKNESS

### 7.) Keep yourself safe

#### According to the Bible, How do we stay in the light?

Being in a State of Continuous Fellowship  
with The Lord - Practicing the Presence of  
God.

#### Matthew 5:13-16

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. :14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. :15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. :16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

#### One of the many benefits of Being in the Light,

#### 1 Thessalonians 5:1-8

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. :2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. :3 For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. :4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. :5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. :6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober. :7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. :8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

#### Jude 20,21

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

## THE DISCIPLINES OF DARKNESS

### 8.) Remember heaven is full of light

According to the Bible,  
Eternity is separated by light.

#### John 1:4-5

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. :5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

#### John 3:17-21

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. :18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. :19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. :20 For everyone **practicing evil** hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. :21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

#### Ephesians 5:6-8

Let no one deceive you with vain-empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. :7 Therefore do not be partakers with them. :8 For you were once **darkness**, but now *you are light* in the Lord. Walk as children of light

## Jesus Christ is the Light

#### Revelations 21:22-25

But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. :23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb *is* its light. :24 And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. :25 Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).

**Revelations 22:5**

There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

**John 8:12**

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

- (1) Pray that those who are lost right now will be found.
- (2) Pray that those who are wayward will come back home to Christ right now
- (3) pray that the Lord would receive our worship and our offerings to Him

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*End of Study*

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