

“In the Dark”

“Who is among you who (reverently) fears the Lord, who obeys the voice of His servant, yet who walks in darkness and deep trouble and has no shining splendor (in his heart)? Let him rely on, trust in, and be confident in the name of the Lord, and let him lean upon and be supported by his God” (Isaiah 50:10 Amplified Bible).

Looking at our key Scripture for this month, we need to answer this question. Can we- as daughters of the Lord- walk in darkness? This is not about physical darkness or spiritual darkness from sin but another kind of darkness. We will define it as:

- 1) Uncertainty
- 2) To make dim, gloomy or cloudy
- 3) Difficult to understand
- 4) Obscure or concealed
- 5) Trouble and distress.

The answer to the question is a definite yes.

We know the world is in darkness that is ever-increasing. Our God is light (1 John 1:5). Jesus is the true light (John 1:9). Jesus said “I am the Light of the world. So if you follow me, you won’t be stumbling through the darkness, for living light will flood your path” (John 8:12 LB). We are told to “Live as children of light (for the fruit of light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord” (Ephesians 5:8 NIV).

Although we are children of light, we need to know there are times and seasons in our lives that the darkness described above will happen. Yes, we love the Lord, and are learning to put Him first in all things, we walk in obedience, and share with others what He has so freely given to us. Yet- there will be times when we are “in the dark”. Perhaps our relationship with the Lord is not growing the way we thought it should. Perhaps we have suffered a loss or a deep disappointment. Perhaps His will for us is a mystery right now. We may have no sense of personal worth or belonging. We may be experiencing trouble in our families or with people we deeply love. Perhaps answers or solutions we desperately need are hidden from us. We may be down and even depressed- wondering where the joy, peace and sense of purpose in our lives has gone. Do we have a future? Where is God in all this? God has the answers- He is the answer!

In the dark times, the invitation of the Lord is there for us (and always will be)! “Come to me and I will give you rest- all of you who work so hard beneath a heavy yoke, wear my yoke- for it fits perfectly- and let me teach you; for I am gentle and humble, and you will find rest for your souls, for I give you only light burdens” (Matthew 11:28-30 LB). Amazing, isn’t it? In these times He will come if we will come to Him.

Is there a purpose or purposes for these times? Yes- oh yes! We all desire to know Him at a deeper level, to experience His life-giving presence in new ways, to grasp what grace really is, and have a greater

sense of what it is to be in Christ. He is not only with us and in us in the joyful times of blessing, strength, and provision- but also in the times where we are without- when nothing makes sense, when we are hurting, and when we don't know what to do, or which way to turn. He has not left you- He is in you- Christ the hope of glory! It is His initiative, His love, His desire to reveal Himself to us. And we will find He is more than enough. Since darkness and light are the same to Him (Psalm 139:11, 12 LB), be assured that He sees you where you are and how you are- and He knows what you need.

His promises are sure. "Even in darkness, light dawns for the upright..." (Psalm 112:4 NIV). "You, O Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light" (Psalm 18:28 NIV). "For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light" (Psalm 36:9 NIV).

So we know He will come, He will help, He will comfort us- He is the God of all comfort. Many things are without answer or explanation in these days- but He will let us know He is working and moving; He will carry all that we give Him, and He (alone!) is in control.

Going back to the key Scripture in Isaiah, we will find more of His purpose for us. He wants us to rely solely on Him for our needs, to trust in Him (not ourselves or others). He tells us to lean on Him and receive the support we need from Him- the One who loves us and cares deeply about us.

These times are special times, although they don't look or feel special. The Lord uses everything in our lives to draw us closer to Him, to prepare us for what we are to do, and to give us His Heart for the people He loves- all people. These times are temporary not permanent- they are allowed for a reason, and we will be stronger and better because we went through them.

There is a special word for all of us in these times- the word REMAIN. Remain in the Word daily. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105 NIV). "The entrance of your words gives light" (Psalm 119:139 NIV). Remain in prayer. God hears your prayers- just pour out your heart to Him. Remain in fellowship- even when you feel like running or separating yourself from the Body of Christ. As we share our lives with others we will be helped and strengthened- as we share the goodness of God (and He is good!) we will be lifted. Remain a giver- you can give out of what God has given you! Remain grateful and thankful to Him- He remains faithful and has been so very good to us all!

"I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who calls you by name" (Isaiah 45:3 NIV).

Peace to you from the One who is our peace-



Toni Quinn

For His Glory Women's Ministry

"There is in every true woman's heart a spark of heavenly fire, which beams and blazes in the dark hour of adversity." Irving