



Matthew 7:14

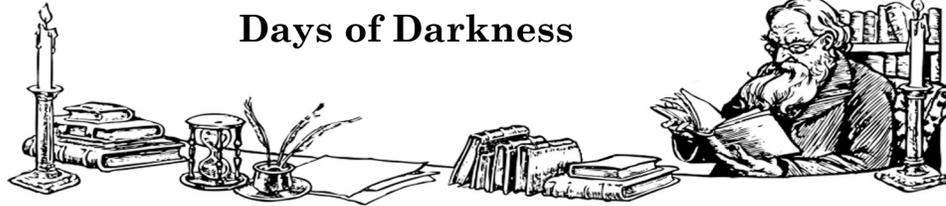
# Excellent Things

*"Have not I written to thee excellent things..." Proverbs 22:20*

*A monthly teaching newsletter of  
Narrow Way Ministries International*

*Issue 5 - August 2018*

## Days of Darkness



*"GO YE THEREFORE,  
AND TEACH ALL NATIONS"  
MATTHEW 28:19*

**Ecclesiastes 11:7-8**

***"Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun: <sup>8</sup>But if a man live many years, and rejoice in them all; yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they shall be many. All that cometh is vanity."***

Early in my ministry, I was a faith minister that preached solely on prosperity, healing, deliverance, and the goodness of God. Everything was either of God or of the devil. However, the longer I went on with the Lord, through searching the Scriptures and pastoring His people, I learned that was not the case. Our religious formulas do not define God. Life is difficult at best. I find that there is a great revelation in the knowledge that God is not necessarily simply good or evil, God is working *all* things together for our good. I believe that there are four things that bring the dealings of God into our life. First, life in general brings its' share of difficulties. Second, the devil brings his share. However, we can bind him and cast him out. Third, we reap what we sow. The fourth and final thing, is that God is dealing with us.

God is sovereign and is neither good nor bad; He is just God. We have to understand, like Abraham in Genesis 18:25, *"Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"* God is the judge of the earth, the final and ultimate sovereign judge. In His sovereignty, God will permit something in His wisdom that He could prevent in His power. He permits things for a reason, not because He's playing chess with the devil. He has purpose behind everything He does. Like Romans 8:28 says, *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."* When it says in that verse, *"all things"* we

have to say it for the good and the bad things that happen in our lives. Everything is working together for good! Furthermore, everyone is called to be a part of the bride of Christ, but I daresay that just a remnant will come into the fullness of that revelation. There is a race to be run and a prize to be won! Heaven is not the race because that is assured through our salvation, the race is for Brideship. Everything we are going through is not for nothing! There is a purpose for *"the days of darkness."* How I wish the faith ministers would receive that revelation! *"There shall be many."* Every day is not a good day, but it can be a good day if we turn our suffering to the Lord.

The word *"darkness"* in this verse means *"ignorance, sorrow, misery, and destruction."* There are not many who could say they have not sorrowed in the past few years. We are simply living by the grace of God! The word *"grace"* means *"God's divine enablement."* We need His ability to make it through! There is so much ignorance, sorrow, misery and destruction that we must fight through, especially within the body of Christ. Moreover, I do not believe we go through things in this life by chance, nor do I believe that the devil is that powerful. God allows suffering because suffering brings the glory.

If you find someone suffering, you can rest assured that God is working the Glory in their life. As it says in Romans 8:18, *"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the **glory** which shall be revealed in us."* Furthermore, Paul says in II Corinthians 4:17, *"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."* I personally want to have a chat with Paul

in Heaven about his usage of the term *"light affliction."* Our afflictions seem awfully heavy to me. Though our afflictions may seem heavy and unending, we must remember that they are, *"but for a moment"* and that they are working a greater, eternal glory! Oh, if we could truly receive that revelation, we would be much further on in our walk with God. Amid the darkness in our lives, we must take a step back to find what God is trying to work in us. God does not want us to only be okay when we are sitting in church, but He wants us to be okay all the time. However, most Christians do not get a revelation of that; they walk how they want to walk, except when they get ready to go into the house of God and for an hour or so afterwards. They forget the principles they were taught in church. Unless those principles are applied to our lives and mean something to us, we will not be able to go on in God.

Truthfully, how many of us have days of darkness? The answer is clearly all of us, but many times we are afraid of bad confessions. I knew a man once who had a broken arm with a cast on it and when asked about it, he refused to admit that he had a broken arm. The insanity! It can become almost cultish when people try to claim it is mind over matter. No, it is supposed to be spirit over matter; the supernatural rests on our physical nature and changes it. However, if you have a broken arm, there is no shame in that! Unfortunately, the faith ministers make us feel ashamed for natural things happening in our lives. Those people even say that God never uses sickness to deal with us, but I

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**JESUS IS PRECIOUS!**

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must disagree with that, due to evidence to the contrary in my own life. God does not send the sickness, but he will use anything and everything to glorify His name! Nevertheless, I had to come to the place where I took no part in that mentality. I will stand with the things that are true within the Word of God, but I will not be stupid!

Do you remember when God told Moses, in Exodus 20, that he was going to come down and visit His people? When God came down in His Glory with all the thunder and lightning, the people, as it says in Exodus 20:18, "saw it, they removed, and stood afar off." The people saw all this power and basically told Moses that he could go for them instead. The next verse is one of the loneliest in the Scriptures; Exodus 20:21 states, "And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was." The glory in that scripture is attached to darkness. That scripture proves that most people shy away from the glory of God. When you stand outside of the glory, it can appear weird, goofy, or even phony to see others in it. However, when you are in the glory, it is everything to you! Additionally, it was a "thick darkness." That darkness can be so thick that you cannot see, but it says in Isaiah 42:16, "And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not." God is

present in that darkness. Micah 7:8 says, "when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me."

Furthermore, the Bible says in Isaiah 45:3, "I will give thee the treasures of darkness." When we are in great darkness, it is imperative that we find the treasure there. What is it that God is trying to speak to you in your time of darkness? He has not forsaken you! He is waiting for you to find that treasure! God knows what lies in that darkness, as it says in Daniel 2:22, "He knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with Him." Moreover, David said in Psalm 139:12, "the darkness and the light are both alike to thee." God either uses light or darkness and the two of them together are the two hands of God that mold us. Good and evil together are what God uses to shape us into the people that God wants us to be. God is looking for a people. It says in Deuteronomy 32:9 that, "For the LORD'S portion is his people," and I want to be one of them!

If you are in a dark time right now, you must remember that God has not forsaken you! God has set an end to darkness and He knows how much you can handle. You would be surprised how much you can handle with Jesus. But there are treasures in darkness! The Bible says, "I will make darkness light before them," (Isaiah 42:16). In that darkness, you can discover deep, life-changing things; you can find

the purpose to your sorrow, misery, and destruction. Do you remember the deep things you learned in a time of blessing? Aside from the prosperity of the time? When did you learn the deep things of life? Generally, we learn the most in times of distress. The Bible says in Psalms 4:1, "thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress." God enlarges our spiritual man when we are in distress. Our soulish man may decrease, but as it says in John 3:30, "He must increase, but I must decrease." Thank God for that!

Are you in a time of darkness? God sets prosperity against adversity; He gives us days of prosperity and days of adversity. You must glorify Him in that valley, just as much as you would on the mountains. It is your only way out of it! When you are glorifying God, the devil and even your very mind cannot stand it. In a time of darkness, everything in us wants to rebel and not submit to God. We know that He is the answer, but why don't we glorify Him then? The time to go to Jesus is the time we do not want to! We must fight through that apathy and lift up a sacrifice of praise!

In this time of darkness, remember that God has set an end to darkness. He will be your light in darkness. Glory to Jesus!

*Jesus is Precious, Brother Sam*

## Katie's Korner

Salutations friends!

I want you to know that nothing you sacrifice goes unnoticed, even if you never get credit for it. As it says in I Samuel 2:

*"And Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, and said, The LORD give thee seed of this woman for the loan which is lent to the LORD. And they went unto their own home. And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the LORD." (I Samuel 2:20-21)*

Something struck me funny when I read this. Keep in mind what has just happened in the story. Hannah had just handed over her most prized possession to Eli.....her ONLY child, Samuel. Yes, it was Elkanah's son too, but he had many other children. Hannah had only little Samuel, so I think it's safe to say that hers was the more poignant sacrifice. Eli blessed them

both.....that's good, thanks Eli, appreciate it. But then his next words are pointed to Elkanah: "May the Lord give you seed of this woman." What? I mean, I know that means by proxy, Hannah gets kids too, but WHAT? Well thanks Eli, but this sacrifice goes way beyond a trite little saying.....well she can have more kids'.....what about the one I lost Eli, what about that? And why are you talking to Elkanah, when I'm standing right here in front of you? Eli is saying to Elkanah God will give YOU fruit (seed) for the loan which this 'person' has lent to God.

Let's look at the words 'loan' and 'lent'.

Loan - thing asked for, request, demand. Lent - to be given on request. God has asked for something and Hannah gave it when He asked. Eli is a type of God and Elkanah is a type of Jesus.

Eli told Elkanah that he would get the fruit of Hannah's sacrifice.

The point is it's more about what your Heavenly husband gets out of it when you give over your most costly 'thing requested.'

What does Hannah get you say? She bore five more children after her sacrifice and five is the number for grace.

Hannah gets grace to make it through the ordeal, but not until AFTER she hands him over. If you are waiting for God to make it easy to relinquish those things He's asking for, then you are misinformed. I daresay everyone could sacrifice anything then. It's a remnant, friends. Sometimes it is exceedingly difficult to give up the things we hold so tightly to. However, AFTER you do it, He will meet you with his Grace! Most importantly, Jesus gets the fruit. What is that fruit? A lesson for another time.

*All my love,  
Katie G.*

### Greetings From Charlottesville, VA!

Brother Sam visited the NW Charlottesville Bible School on Thursday, June 28<sup>th</sup> through July 1<sup>st</sup>. Though he had visited when the Bible School was first established in 2016, the school has grown in



more ways than just the number of people. Namely, the students are hungry, they encourage each other and they are growing in their love for Jesus and a heightened appreciation for His Word.

Brother Sam's visit came at a perfect time as we were preparing to teach the Oh, Worship the Lord series. He started the summer off with a beautiful weekend of worship, prophecy, the Word and his blessings upon the people and the school. Unbeknownst to Brother Sam, the Word that we be unfettered by family obligations was a timely one for many in attendance. He had already shared that not everyone in the Body of Christ would be His bride so his explanation of Luke 14:26 (If any man come to me, and hate not his father and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren and sister, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple) was a precursor to better understanding the Word. In so doing, he helped each of us in attendance to further understand the weight of this call to worship.



Before the weekend of meetings ended, he distinguished between what it means to worship in Spirit and in truth. The precious and faithful disciples worshipped with such an exuberance and freedom the entire weekend and it has continued since Brother Sam bid us farewell. Everyone is excited about the series and about visiting Asheville sometime soon. We are all excited about how God will perform His precious work through the ministry and each of the disciples.

*Pastors Derick & Ouida Powe*

### Anointed With Fresh Oil by Andrew Jensen

*Psalms 92:10 says, "But my horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of an unicorn: I shall be anointed with fresh oil."*

As a fellow disciple and son of Narrow Way Ministries, this passage is my prayer not only for my life (especially as I enter into a new season of my life in North Carolina), but for every single precious disciple all over the world. Each one of us has a distinct calling and purpose not only personally but corporately in the body of Christ. And the entering into that calling takes great preparation, dedication, dealings and suffering. We all have a place in the Kingdom of God no matter how big or small that carries with it great purpose and where I believe we will find the greatest joy, peace, and fulfillment for our lives. And in that place, Jesus wants to anoint us with fresh oil! Jesus said in many parables to faithful stewards and servants when He finally visited them, "enter thou into the joy of the Lord." Well for the true disciple of the Lord, the

reward is not earthly success or abundance, but for that precious anointing and glory to take over all that we do so that we can say like Paul said, "...nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me" (Galatians 2:20).

Our papa Sam wrote a book called "The Anointing of God" and he goes through all of the specific ingredients to the anointing oil and their corresponding revelation. Most of the ingredients speak of a crushing and rubbing in of fine spices (attributes of God's character) into our lives. To even get the oil, the main ingredient, it requires the crushing of the olive. Needless to say, the anointing is a very costly substance. I like what the late Chuck Flynn said about the anointing, "You can't put a finger on exactly what it is, but you just know when it is not there." And isn't that the truth. There is a distinct difference on doing things on your own strength and ability and doing things when God anoints and is doing it through you.

As I sit here writing this, considering all of

the precious disciples of Narrow Way Ministries all over the world, I know without a shadow of a doubt that there is a fresh anointing coming your way. Another translation of Psalms 92:10 reads, "You have poured over me fresh oil." Another reads, "I am covered with fresh oil." The Hebrew word for "anointed" in Psalms 92:10 means "to overflow with oil, to mingle." The Hebrew word for "fresh" means "to be green, prosperous, luxuriant, flourishing, rich or profuse growth." The Hebrew word for "oil" means "grease, oil from the olive, richness" and it comes from a root that means "to shine." In other words, as the Lord has been preparing you, dealing with you, emptying you over these years, He has done that for a purpose. That purpose is so He can fill you with His glory and anointing, so much where it will overflow your vessel causing what you are called to do to flourish, grow, and be prosperous. It will make you shine. Where you were once in obscurity, now the light and glory of God will be seen by all. And

## Excellent Things

isn't that what we all want? Not that we will be seen or that our ministry will be exalted or anything like that, but that Jesus will begin to arise in all our lives all over the world like never before. We shall be anointed with fresh oil! It is the end that Jesus has purposed from the beginning and it is coming in a greater and fresh way!

In describing one of the anointing oil's purpose, Exodus 27:20 says, *"to cause the lamp to burn always."* Jesus wants our lamp to be burning always. Well, He does that by pouring over us fresh oil. Keep pressing on my dear brothers and sisters. We are called to make disciples of the nations and we are going to keep doing that. We are going to do that now in Asheville, NC by the grace of God! Nothing has changed with our calling to be His bride, worship Him with abandonment, intimately walk with the Lord, give ourselves to the Word of God like never before, and manifest His love, mercy, and character wherever we are. Are you burning with this calling? Perhaps you need some fresh oil today. Open your heart and He will pour it out all over you so much where it is overflowing.

Exodus 40:9 says, *"And thou shalt take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle, and all that is therein, and shalt hallow it, and all the vessels thereof: and it shall be holy."* God wants to anoint everything in the tabernacle. All that is in the tabernacle is important to Jesus and the Kingdom of God, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant. It is usually the little things that always make the difference when it

comes to God's Kingdom, keeping our heart right, forgiving one another, reaching out a helping hand, giving someone a word of kindness, etc. God wants to anoint our work and activity in the tabernacle. What has the Lord put on your heart concerning His tabernacle to be a part of? Is it to be part of intercession, help minister to the children or youth? Is it to help finance the Kingdom? Is it to help do the administrative work of the ministry? Lift your eyes and see that every aspect of the tabernacle is important to the Kingdom of God. Every life that is encouraged, affected, saved, ministered to makes all of heaven rejoice. Jesus wants to freshly anoint His purpose in every aspect of the tabernacle. He wants to anoint every vessel who is Kingdom minded to contribute and glorify Jesus in the work of the Lord.

In Ezekiel 16, Jerusalem was *"cast out in the open field, to the lothing of thy person"* (verse 5). When Jesus passed by her polluted in her own blood, He brought life to her, washed her, and said it was *"the time of love."* Then it reads, *"and I anointed thee with oil."* Psalms 104:15 says *"And oil to make his face to shine."* Have you felt distant from the Lord because of a struggle in your life? Do you struggle with condemnation? Well if so, Jesus wants to come to you, wash away that sorrow and condemnation, and anoint you with fresh oil to make your face to shine once again. He wants to draw out that hunger and love for the Lord that He knows is in there but perhaps has gotten choked through life's cares and issues.

Jesus says in Song of Solomon 2:10, *"Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away."* Let's do that and as we do, we shall be anointed with fresh oil to press on!

I like that it is fresh oil. That means new oil. I believe Jesus wants to anoint us because of new things coming our way and He wants us prepared for them. Isaiah 43:19 says, *"Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert."* Amen!

Finally, Psalms 133 says, *"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore"* (Psalms 133:1-3). This passage gives another great insight about the anointing. God anoints heads. And as we are submitted to our God ordained, God anointed pastors and father in the Lord, we are assured that the same anointing and inheritance that is upon them will flow down to us upon the skirts. Glory to God! As we abide in Zion, where Jesus is enthroned not only upon our hearts, but we abide corporately together in unity with God's kingdom first, God commands His blessing and anointing to be poured out over everything we do! We all shall be anointed with fresh oil!

## Thank you!

Brother Sam and Sister Katie are deeply grateful for your continued support. You have no idea how greatly you minister to them with you prayers and support. They could not be doing this without you! Thank you from the bottom of their hearts.

Again, for your convenience, here again is our contact information and the 3 different ways to give. Please stay in touch and let us know if there is anything we can do for you. If you ever desire for Brother Sam to come and visit your area, let us know as well. Receive all our love from Asheville, NC:

- 1) Call me, Andrew Jensen, at 904-514-0409 to give using your debit or credit card
- 2) Mail a check payable to "Narrow Way Ministries International" and mail it to:  
*Narrow Way Ministries International, 825 C Merrimon Ave, PMB #300, Asheville, NC 28804*
- 3) Go online to pay via PayPal with your debit/credit card at: <http://www.nwmin.org/donate>

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