

DARKNESS AND LIGHT

Devotional by Susan Alloway

Ephesians 5:13-14:

Everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said:

*“Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”*

Devotional:

When I was a kid, I was afraid of the dark (and my kids are going through that currently). But even as an adult I don't blame them. Darkness is scary. We can't see where we're going. We can't tell what's coming next. We don't know what else occupies the darkness with us, or whether it has sharp teeth.

Throughout scripture there is a lot of darkness, both figurative darkness (sin, brokenness, destruction, loss) and literal darkness (when God first creates, during the plagues in Egypt, when Jesus dies on the cross). But there is a lot of light, too.

If you have time, I encourage you to turn on some calm instrumental music and spend 10 minutes sitting with the following passages of scripture. Read one, pause for a minute to listen, then read the next.

Genesis 1:1-3a

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.*

1 John 1:5-7

This is the message we have heard from Jesus and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out 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.

Matthew 5:14-16

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your goodness and glorify your Father in heaven.

Revelation 22:1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night, no more darkness. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign with Him for ever and ever.

Prayer

Wondrous God, Lord of Light, thank you for breaking into the darkness and bringing light. As our world walks through this unsettling time, please help us to be people of light, people of calm, people of hope. And may your will be done in all things. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91hHw1YPqxE>