**DARKNESS VERSUS LIGHT**

**INTRODUCTION:**  Opening video

“Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you” (John 12:35 ESV).

It appears darkness is always chasing us. Two opposing natures with light representing goodness and darkness representing evil.

We cannot avoid the reality that we have an adversary who comes “to steal and kill and destroy” (John 10:10 ESV).

Satan wants to weaken your faith, drain you of your hope, kill your joy, and break your relationship with your heavenly Father. He wants you to believe the days of miracles are over.

Our adversary began this battle when he led an insurrection against God a long time ago.

Shortly after Adam and Eve were placed in the Garden of Eden, the serpent showed up. I like the way Warren Wiersbe wrote about the cosmic conflict in the *Strategy of Satan*:

Satan came first as a **deceiver**. As a deceiver, he targets your **mind**. His **weapons** are **lies** designed to make you **ignorant of God’s will**. “But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ” (2 Corinthians 11:3).

As a subtle deceiver, he questioned God’s Word: “Has God indeed said” (Genesis 3:2 NKJV); then he denied God’s Word: “You will not surely die” (Genesis 3:4 NKJV); and then he substituted his own lie: “You will be like God” (Genesis 3:5 NKJV).

If Satan cannot defeat you by deceiving your mind, he will then try to **destroy** your body. “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8). As a serpent, he deceives. As a lion, he devours. The **weapon** he uses is **suffering**—physical or emotional suffering. **His purpose is to make you impatient with God’s will.** If you have ever had prolonged pain, a broken relationship that you cannot mend, an unexplained tragedy, or the loss of a loved one, you know what I am talking about. Satan’s lie sounds something like this: “If God really loved you, He wouldn’t have allowed that to happen.”

Everyone is susceptible to Satan’s attack. No one is exempt.

You may look at your health, your family, your finances, your relationships, etc.; and it looks hopeless. Your hope needle is on empty. You have no expectation of anything good in your future. Darkness is clouding your mind. Satan wants you to become impatient so you will give up, thinking your miracle will never come.

Satan is ruthless. If deception does not cause you to detour off faith’s path or suffering does not discourage you to the point of giving up . . .

Satan then attacks your **will,** using **pride** to tempt you to become **independent of God’s will.**

Isn’t that a prevalent problem today? Moral relativism, the removal of biblical imagery from our culture, and excessive narcissism have wounded the soul of our society. Many have no moral authority. “I have my rights” is the mantra of the day.

This world has become darker and darker. We are facing a pandemic of sexual abuse, pornography, promiscuity, cohabitation, human trafficking, and an opioid crisis. More than 55 million abortions have been performed since 1973, and recent post-birth potential infanticide in certain states is alarming.

It is easy to say these are secularists, agnostics, and sinners and that does not describe the church; but we face challenges as well.

* Barna research revealed that “in virtually every study we conduct representing thousands of interviews every year, born-again Christians fail to display much attitudinal or behavioral evidence of transformed lives.”
* Born-again Christians ages 23-41 have adopted beliefs that show major cracks in their moral perspectives.
* Fifty-nine percent believe it is morally acceptable to cohabitate; 44 percent say sex outside of marriage is okay; 35 percent say it is okay to get drunk, and 32 percent say having an abortion is morally acceptable.

Darkness is chasing us. It looks like that from Eden to Armageddon, we have and will continue to face an adversarial culture. It is true; it is a daunting task, but we must not quit. We must never give up.

Remember, this war is not between two equal or even two nearly equal heavenly superpowers. Compared to Satan’s limited power, God is completely off the charts in His omnipotence, omnipresence, and omniscience.

“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever” (Revelation 11:15 ESV).

“And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever” (Revelation 20:10 ESV).

This is God’s Church, and Jesus is the builder. God has blessed this church, the Assemblies of God. We have a wonderful past, but our memories must never get bigger or more precious to us than our vision for the future.

A Spirit-empowered Church, birthed in an encounter, discipled by the anointed preaching and teaching of God’s Word, and following a biblical template modeled by the first Acts 2 Church is the hope of the world.

It may look dark, but I am not ready to raise the white flag of surrender. Let’s be bold and ask God to give us miracles like He did for those of old. For the Red Sea to split; for a cloud by day and fire by night; for the Captain of the Lord’s host to show up; for the fire in the furnace to lose its heat; for the lions in the den to begin to whimper; for Goliath to fall; for the dry bones to assemble; for the ax head to float; for the lame to walk, the deaf to hear, the blind to see, and Jesus to manifest His power; for the Holy Ghost to fall; and for the same power that birthed the first century church to become more than a memory of yesterday but also to become a reality of today. If God did it once, He can do it again.

LET THERE BE LIGHT.

**Jesus is a source of light.**

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12 ESV).

“As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world” (John 9:5 ESV).

The darker the night, the brighter the light.

Some may ask, “Is my problem too big for God to handle? I’ve tried repeatedly and can’t break the addiction.” Even though you know God has the power but because you have not experienced it in so long, you may feel He either does not care or does not have the ability.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without him was not anything made that was made” (John 9:5 ESV).

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14 ESV).

He is Jehovah Jireh, the provider, “who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist” (Romans 4:17 ESV).

He is the El Shaddai—the more than enough.

This huge ball (planet earth), arched with clouds upon which we stand, is nothing but His footstool. Isaiah said, “Lift up your eyes on high and see who created these things” (40:26 ESV).

“In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands” (Psalm 102:25 NIV).

He not only created the heavens and the earth; look around you and see His work up close and personal.

Physicists tell us that us that if you want to make a man, you must have 58 pounds of oxygen; 50 quarts of water; 2 ounces of salt; 3 pounds of calcium; 24 pounds of carbon, chlorine, phosphorus, fat, iron, sulfur and glycerin.

But God made a man with dust. He made him with eyes that had 100 million receptors and with ears that had 24,000 fibers that vibrate to every sound.

You sit here tonight with a body that has 500 muscles and 200 bones and 7 miles of nerve fibers—all synchronized so there is agility and movement. In your chest beats a heart 36 million times a year pumping 60,000 gallons of blood through 600,000 miles of vessels and veins and arteries. You are breathing with lungs that are 600 million pockets of folded flesh to expunge the gaseous waste out of your body. Through your veins and arteries there flow 5 quarts of blood with 22 trillion blood cells. Within each cell are millions of molecules. Within each molecule is an atom that is oscillating 10 million times a second; and every second, 2 million of those atoms die and are replaced. You are literally a walking resurrection.

In your head there are 3 pounds of gray matter assisted throughout your body by 4 million pain sensitive structures, 500,000 touch detectors, and 200,000 temperature gauges.

If you want a reason to believe for a miracle, just pull your compact mirror out and look at yourself. That’s all the reason you need.

So complex are the bodies that He has made that just a postage-sized piece of skin has 3 million cells in it and a yard of blood vessels, 4 yards of nerves, 100 sweat glands, 15 oil glands, and 25 nerve endings; and He did it with dust.

The evolutionists would like for us to believe that these medical marvels are just the consequence of blind chance. It would be easier to believe that a Rolex watch is the result of an explosion in a gold mind.

**VIDEO OF JOHN ALARID**

**God’s Word is a source of light.**

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105 ESV).

“All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God” (2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV).

The same God who declared the first miracle…“let there be light”…has given us His Word in the Holy Scriptures.

Genesis 1 records “and God said” 9 times.

Malachi records “and God said” 23 times.

Isaiah claimed divine inspiration 40 times.

Jeremiah records “thus saith the Lord” 100 times.

The Pentateuch records “and God spoke” 560 times.

The Old Testament records “and God spoke” 3,800 times.

* The Word is a devouring flame (Jeremiah 5:14).
* The Word is like a crushing hammer (Jeremiah 23:29).
* The Word is a life-giving force (Ezekiel 37:7).
* The Word is a saving power (Romans 1:16).
* “He sent out his word and healed them” (Psalm 107:20 ESV).
* “And with his wounds we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5 ESV).

He still heals today.

**ELLY MARROQUIN’S VIDEO**

**You are a source of light.**

“You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14 ESV).

Every Christian in this building is light. This is not just for executives, pastors, missionaries, prophets, experts, etc. Everyone is light.

Many here tonight have seen the movie, *BreakThrough*, a powerful testimony of a young man in an Assemblies of God church who experienced a tremendous miracle. Sammy Rodriquez was the co-producer and was instrumental in exposing the miracle power of our Lord to millions around the world.

Watch John Smith tell what happened to him.

**JOHN SMITH VIDEO**

You have seen three powerful testimonies of God’s miraculous power. Tonight we do not just want to rejoice with them about their miracles, but we also want to believe God for a miracle for you.

If you or a family member or friend is bound by an addiction, hopelessly living a lifestyle thinking there is no way out, we are going to believe with you.

If you need a miracle of healing or if you think your problem is too big for God, I want to remind you of Elly’s story. I want Elly and her daughter, the daughter the doctors thought would never live or if she did, that she would never be healthy, to join me.

If God can do a miracle for us, He can perform one for you.

How many tonight would like to receive a miracle for yourself or someone you know?

There are many great men and women of God here; but regardless of your credentials, experience, or calling, everyone is LIGHT. You may have never received a miracle, but you can believe for one.