Topical December 13-14, 2008

God's Light for Your Dark Days

Jesus said, "I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the darkness." John 12:46 (New Living Translation)

You have taken away my companions and loved ones; only darkness remain." Psalm 88:18 (NLT, 1996)

• THERE IS A BALANCE BETWEEN HUMAN <u>RESPONSIBILITY</u> AND DIVINE ACTION.

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James, To those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ: Jude 1 (New International Version)

Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Jude 21 (NIV)

To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me. Colossians 1:29 (NIV)

"You, Lord, are my light; you dispel my darkness." 2 Samuel 22:29 (Good News Translation)

How can God dispel the darkness with His light?

GOD <u>ENCOURAGES ME</u> IN MY DARKS DAYS OF DISAPPOINTMENT AND DISCOURAGEMENT.

I hoped for happiness and light, but trouble and darkness came instead. Job 30: 26 (GNT)

The Lord is near to those who are discouraged; he saves those who have lost all hope. Psalm 34:18 (GNT)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Romans 15:13 (English Standard Version)

Come near to God and he will come near to you. James 4:8a (NIV)

• GOD STRENGTHENS ME IN MY DARK DAYS OF STRESS.

I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. ²⁸Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. 2 Corinthians 11:27-28 (NIV)

I have the strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me - I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me. Philippians 4:13 (Amplified Bible)

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, . . . Ephesians 3:16 (NIV)

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe. Proverbs 18:10 (NIV)

David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God. 1 Samuel 30:6 (NIV)

GOD BRINGS LIGHT INTO THE DARK DAYS OF MY <u>UNCERTAINTY AND DOUBT</u>.

Jesus said to the people, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't be stumbling through the darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." John 8:12 (NLT, 1996)

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

GOD HELPS ME IN THE DARK DAYS OF MY <u>CRISIS AND LOSS</u>.

I heard and my heart pounded, my lips quivered at the sound; decay crept into my bones, and my legs trembled. Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity to come on the nation invading us. Habakkuk 3:16 (NIV)

Even though I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, Lord, for you are with me. Psalm 23:4 (GNT)