Devotion #270

**The Glory of Darkness**

**Psalm 30:5 (NASB)** *“For His anger is but for a moment; His favor is for a lifetime; Weeping may last for the night, but a shout of joy comes in the morning.*”

I have never enjoyed the darkness. I can remember very well, when I was a child, having to ask my mom or dad to stand at the bottom of the steps when I would have to go upstairs at night by myself to get something. Even as I have gotten older, I don’t like night time. It may sound silly, but I think it’s because I spend my life fighting the darkness. I’m talking spiritually. Once Jesus saved me, I grew more and more antagonistic to the darkness of Satan and his work. He is so destructive and hurtful and only tears down all that is good and right. So, I don’t like the darkness. In fact, when it starts to get dark outside I have told my wife, if we are out somewhere, let’s go home. I don’t make that law for us, but it is what we do.

I must say that I know that my life wouldn’t be what it is today if it hadn’t been for the dark years of life. My mom used to call them just that, “the dark years” of a child’s life - the time when sin begins to take over and causes the world to look better than Jesus. So, as much as I do not like the darkness, the spiritual darkness, I’m also thankful for it. Not that it is good, but God does bring good from it.

This is what I hear David saying in his psalm. As he was remembering the dark years of his life, he was now able to see the good that the Lord had provided for him. I think David was remembering the times in life when he abandoned what he knew and had been taught in his early years for the pleasures of this world, only to find that a life of lust and control led him away from God and His blessings. (2 Samuel 11) I think, too, David was remembering the dark nights of King Saul’s hatred for David. (1 Samuel 19) He was probably remembering the time when his closest friend, Jonathan, was killed, due to Saul’s arrogance. (1 Samuel 31) All of those memories and many more brought David to be the man he was when he penned this psalm.

Darkness has a way of doing that to a person - causing him or her to see the depth of wickedness and hurt, only to come to the light of God’s truth, to experience real joy and peace. The sad reality is that our sin nature is so powerful and controlling, we often have to go down, way down before we are able or willing to look up and see the beauty of God and His gracious compassion and willingness to forgive us. It is in those darkest days when we begin to see the glorious mercy of God and the illuminating power of the Cross.

Speaking of the cross, even the disciples had no real understanding of why Jesus was making His way there. Their minds just couldn’t comprehend what Jesus was doing. (Luke 18:34) For them, the darkness was too overwhelming to accept. But the Lord knew that is was the the plan of Satan to kill Jesus, and, in that, God would do His greatest work. Yes, God was in control of that moment when Jesus was brutally mistreated, but Satan was at the front of the line cheering on his minions to do the work. Yet, God, willingly gave that time to the darkness so He could save all of us on that glorious resurrection morning. Likewise, David was able to say that darkness has its dreaded work, but when God steps in, the morning is all the brighter.

Beloved, this weekend marks for us the joy of knowing that God has overcome the darkness of Satan. It was through God’s wonderful power that you and I can be, and are, forever free. I have often thought that I would never want to go back to my “dark years”, but I am forever grateful for them, because it was in those days that I saw the glory of God the most. I am not advocating that a person should spend time in darkness in order to see the light, but the truth is, we come into this world with darkened souls. Because of that, we already have the ability to see the contrast between good and evil.

My prayer for all of us is that we will be grateful to our God for all He has done and that we continue to ask Him to open the eyes of those blinded in darkness, so they will see the truth and know the joy of what it means to be rescued from it all. Today we are thankful for the darkness of the cross.