

THE MINISTRY OF DARKNESS

Isa. 50:10,11

*we travel under sealed orders*

INTRO: Conversation with four preachers -- all said they had been going through a period of darkness. A dark night of the soul. No feeling, no awareness of God's presence. Two had written books on the Christian Life -- one began to doubt his salvation.

OSWALD CHAMBERS: "Then God withdrew His conscious blessings in order to teach you to walk by faith."

WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT, It is the inevitable experience of the saint.

TEXT: Not only does it teach that we walk through periods of darkness, but that the way to tell if a man fears God is the way He acts in darkness

DEF. OF DARKNESS: Darkness is the absence of light. The picture of a man on a journey, sudden there is no light. Hebrew literally says "he walks in DEEP DARKNESS" without even a glimmer of light to guide him.

WHEN there is light you know where you are; you can see where you're going, you can see the obstacles in the road, distinguish friends from foes, assurance, certainty..

THIS DARKNESS DOESN'T refer to sin, but to the absence of light, distress....No light thrown on the subject, no revelation, no explanation for things.

I. KEEP ON WALKING..."He walketh in darkness."

1. Those who trust the Lord -- their characteristic is to keep on walking when there is darkness.

*Heb: Keep on walking*

2. Keep on praying, keep on witnessing, keep on obeying when it doesn't seem to be working or even seem to be right or logical.

3. Trusting God with finances. When everything seems to ~~contradict~~ contradict what God says.

4. THERE IS SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN LIGHT

*Jesus*

### III - Lean on the Lord

- Able into a far, unknown country
- one great lesson = To Trust - live by faith -

"Just shall live by faith"

"Heb 11:6

Rom 14:24

Seeing he's invisible

Stay & lean for support -

Heb 1:10 = staff in Ps 23  
hold me up

Reverence = respect

Reliance

when the bits of your life grows dim  
still cling to Jesus sink or swim  
Still at His Throne Bow Down  
& I will O My strength shall be

& sometimes involve  
The bottom out of  
our experience in  
order to get us in  
contact w/ Himself