

STRENGTH, HOPE AND LIGHT IN THE MIDST OF DARKNESS...JESUS

By: Jay Davis

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"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us."— 2 Corinthians 4:6–7

There are seasons when the noise of the world grows loud and the drumbeats of deep and dark despair beat relentlessly in the human heart. Looking across the global landscape, it is easy to feel overwhelmed—grieving how often we, as the body of Christ, seem to sleepwalk through the suffering and slaughter of our brothers and sisters in faith. It can feel like the slow-boiling water effect, watching toxic ideologies and hostility toward God's truth creep, ooze, and seep into everyday culture. In moments like these, the weight of it all brings a heavy, humbling question: How can I ever pray enough? How do we stay awake in a world that entices us to fall asleep?

The Prophet Jeremiah knew this heavy ache well when he cried out over the fallen state of his people and the hostility of the surrounding culture: "Oh, that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!" — Jeremiah 9:1

Yet, right in the thick of that suffocating weight, scripture grounds us in a transformative truth: Yet there's Jesus. In 2 Corinthians 4, the Apostle Paul speaks directly to believer exhaustion and spiritual warfare. He reminds us that God intentionally placed the infinite treasure of the Gospel inside fragile, vulnerable "jars of clay" (2 Corinthians 4:7).

We are inherently limited. We tire, we grieve, and on our own, we are completely incapable of carrying the burden of the world. But the purpose of our weakness is to reveal where true strength resides:

"We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed."— 2 Corinthians 4:8–9

When darkness seems to creep across the globe, we are reminded that Jesus has already disarmed the powers of darkness and overcome the world:

"In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."— John 16:33

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."— John 1:5

The call for the Christian is not to fall into slumber or despair, but to awaken—to put on the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:10–18) and fix our eyes on the ultimate reality of Christ's sovereignty. Even when our spirit feels worn down by the spiritual battles surrounding us, God promises an ongoing, supernatural renewal from within:

"So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."
— 2 Corinthians 4:16–18

When the darkness feels overwhelming, our hope does not rely on our own ability to pray "enough" or single-handedly change the world. Our hope rests entirely in the One who holds history in His hands,

who guards His church, and whose light can never be extinguished. Make no mistake: darkness is a defeated trespasser, and sin has zero final authority over the blood of the Lamb!

Through the cross, Jesus Christ smashed the power of sin, shattered the chains of death, and rescued us from the kingdom of darkness by His raw, unmerited, unstoppable saving grace. He is not sitting on His throne wringing His hands over the chaos of this world—He is reigning in absolute, supreme, sovereign control right now! Let the world rage and let the darkness creep, but our Savior stands unmatched, untouchable, and undeniable. His redemptive work is finished, His promises are unbreakable, and the day is fast approaching when the skies will tear open and He WILL return in blazing power and ultimate glory to crush every evil, destroy every lie, and claim His final victory!

Jesus Christ is King, He is Lord, and His kingdom will never end!

"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."— Colossians 1:13–14

"He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him."— Colossians 2:15

"And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."
— Philippians 2:8–11

"Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war... On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords."— Revelation 19:11, 16

Prayer

Lord Jesus, Creator of Light, forgive us for the times we have spiritually sleepwalked while our brothers and sisters suffer around the world. We confess that the darkness of this world and the creeping tide of false ideologies can feel heavy and overwhelming, stirring up despair within our hearts. Wake us up, Lord. Remind us that though we are fragile jars of clay, Your invincible power lives within us. Shield our minds, guard our persecuted family across the globe, and give us courage to stand firm in Your truth. Fix our eyes not on the transient troubles of this world, but on Your eternal victory !!

Standing in the Light of Jesus