

# Alone in the Dark!

## Strengthening Your Purity – Deceived By Darkness – Proverbs 7

“Passing through the street near her corner; And he takes the way to her house, in the twilight, in the evening, in the middle of the night and in the darkness.”

Proverbs 7:8-9

“This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”

John 3:19-21

Are you afraid of the dark?

I am not afraid of the dark, just what's in the dark. Most of your scary movies are set during the middle of the night. You know the story, a group of kids get stuck somewhere at night and the lights go out. Now some monster or mad man is running about in the darkness taking them one by one. Sometimes the story ends well, but they always leave room for a sequel. Of course, the sequel is the same story just with a different group of kids, but it is still at night.

Why can darkness be so scary?

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Why do the “villains” always seem to do their work in darkness?

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As young teenagers, we loved to watch these movies with friends and afterwards pretend that we weren't scared. Although, we turn a light on just in case as we leap into bed so whatever is under the bed doesn't get us. There is something about darkness that scares us and something about light that encourages us.

In Proverbs seven, a father is training his son to strengthen his sexual purity through a commitment to the Word, learning life's lesson, a commitment to righteousness, and caution not to play with fire. Now this father cautions his son to not be deceived by the darkness.

I can see the conversation now.

Father: “Son, this man we are watching is crossing over to get a better look at the woman. He is playing with fire and asking for trouble.”

Son: “Dad, what if nobody sees him? What if he is able to do it during the night?”

Father: “That is just it, son. We can see him. He may think he is hiding, but we can see that he is headed for disaster. Darkness does not erase the sin. It only convinces the sinner that he is safe.”

We know that the darkness is not safe – the movies tell us that.

Okay, so Hollywood is not the final authority, but in John 3:19-21 Jesus explains that men who enjoy their evil desires like the darkness. They like to live in the cover of night because of their deeds. The light shows them what their deeds really are and they do not want to face that. Those who want to do right are attracted to the light, but those who want to do wrong run from the light and cower in the darkness.

So Hollywood got something right after all. Darkness is bad, light is good.

*"The eye of the adulterer waits for the twilight, saying, 'No eye will see me.' And he disguises his face. In the dark they dig into houses, they shut themselves up by day; they do not know the light. For the morning is the same to him as thick darkness, for he is familiar with the terrors of thick darkness."*

*Job 24:15-17*

Why do we find it hard to admit to sin once it has been brought to light?

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In Job, Scripture tells us that the adulterous man waits until dark to venture out because he believes that the darkness will hide his actions. It is in the darkness that evil men do their evil deeds, and it later says that the morning is death to them because the light comes.

The father is warning his son that he should not let the darkness deceive him into thinking he can get away with sin. The father is trying to build up a wall of defense for his son's sexual purity. He is telling his son that if he flirts with fire, he will be deceived by the darkness to compromise his purity.

This young man in Proverbs has not made up his mind to do right. He is in company with those who are not resolved to do right. He regularly passes by a woman's house and has now come to the point of passing by this house at night.

Why do you think he took last step?

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It may be that he convinced himself that the world sees him as innocent. Maybe he figured that he has been open and a man of godly integrity. He is not trying to hide anything up until now. He is not a bad person. He is not like others that he knows. Maybe he thinks,

They do not understand. I come by this way all the time. I haven't hidden that. All I've been doing is talking with this nice woman. She needs someone to talk to. Her husband is always gone and she is not able to get out much because she does a good job of taking care of the home. She tells me about how hard she works. Sure, she is good looking, but that is not what this is about. I am just checking on her to see if she is okay at night. The darkness can be scary sometimes.

I hope this line of reasoning does not sound familiar, but I am afraid that too many people have tried to make excuses. The darkness is trying to deceive us. It gives us a false sense of security and safety.

Have you ever found yourself making excuses for treating someone extra special? What did you say to yourself?

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It is an easy thing to do when we have given attention to strengthening our sexual purity. Excuses are easy to come up with, but if we feel like we are trying to find excuses for what we are doing then we need to reconsider what we are doing.

Maybe ask yourself some of these questions:

1. Did I hide from my spouse what I am doing?

*“For why should you, my son, be exhilarated with an adulteress and embrace the bosom of a foreigner? For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the LORD, and He watches all his paths.”*

Proverbs 5:20-21

2. Would my spouse take offense to me conversing this way?
3. Am I doing this now so that I can hide it?
4. If someone “turned the lights on” would I be ashamed of this?
5. Am I making excuses for what I am doing?

If you find yourself answering “yes” to any of these questions, then warning lights and sirens need to come on in your heart and mind. You need to be telling yourself, “RUN AWAY; RUN AWAY!” That is exactly what Paul tells Timothy to do. He says, “Flee youthful lusts” or “get out of there; run away; escape!”

When you have gotten to this point and the alarms are sounding, you need to run. Don’t walk, don’t back down softly, just run, because you are headed straight for disaster and time is up.

This father wants his son to understand that the darkness will deceive him.

One final thought about the darkness: it really does not exist. We think it exists and that we can hide in it, but the wisdom of Solomon says otherwise.

Proverbs 5 explains the importance of a man finding pleasure and satisfaction in his own wife. As this chapter concludes, Solomon asks a rhetorical question, “Why in the world would you want to stray and enjoy a woman other than your wife?” Here is where we realize that darkness does not exist. Solomon says that the ways of man are always seen by the Lord. God sees everything! I can hear Solomon now, “Hello! God sees you!”

The darkness wants to convince you nobody will see you.

The truth is: you are never alone in the dark; God sees you.

What do you need to do in response to this lesson?

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