

Premier
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SUNDAY
Sermon

with Rick Warren

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

FACING DARKNESS, FINDING HOPE

A Faith That Works When Life Doesn't

Kay Warren

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“He wrapped himself in a trench coat of black rain-cloud darkness.” **2 Samuel 22:12** (MsgB)

“God has blocked my path and turned my light to darkness.” **Job 19:8** (LB)

“Answer me, O Lord my God; give me light in my darkness lest I die.” **Psalms 13:3** (LB)

“I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.” **Isaiah 45:3** (NIV)

GOD HAS _____
IN THE DARKNESS OF SUFFERING

“I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches hidden in secret places . . .”

“But He knows the way I take; when He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold.” **Job 23:10** (NASB)

“These trials are only to test your faith, to show that it is strong and pure. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold — and your faith is far more precious to God than mere gold. So if your faith remains strong after being tried by fiery trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.” **1 Peter 1:7** (NLT)

So that you may _____

GOD HAS THE POWER _____
IN OUR DARKNESS

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"I am the LORD, the God of Israel . . ."

"The high and lofty one who lives in eternity, the Holy One, says this: 'I live in the high and holy place with those whose spirits are contrite and humble . . .'" **Isaiah 57:15a** (NLT)

"Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure." **Psalms 147:5** (ESV)

GOD WILL _____
TO US IN OUR DARKNESS

" . . . who summons you by name."

" . . . so we could seek after God, and not just grope around in the dark but actually find him. He doesn't play hide-and-seek with us. He's not remote; he's near." **Acts 17:27b** (MsgB)

"Now we see but a poor reflection; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known." **1 Corinthians 13:12** (NIV)

What we KNOW leads us _____

"At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.'" **Job 1:20-21** (NIV)

There are many things you can praise God for, even in pain:

- That He is a good and loving God (**Job 10:12**)
- That He notices every detail of my life (**Job 23:10; 31:4**)
- That He is in control (**Job 34:13**)
- That He has a plan for my life (**Job 23:14**)

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Treasures in the Darkness:

“Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.’” **John 8:12** (ESV)

“Lord, you have brought light to my life; my God, you light up my darkness.” **Psalms 118:105** (NLT)

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