

SURVIVING THE DARK DAYS OF THE HOLIDAYS

Christmas 2014

December 7, 2014

Pastor Brian

*“Some sat in darkness and deepest gloom, imprisoned in iron chains of misery.”
(Psalm 107:10, NLT)*

What Causes Dark Days

1. **DISAPPOINTMENT**
“I hoped for happiness and light, but trouble and darkness came instead.” (Job 30:26, GNB)
2. **DISTRESS**
“...I have cried desperately for help, but still it does not come.” (Psalm 22:1, GNB)
3. **DOUBT**
“Jesus replied, “...Those who walk in the darkness cannot see where they are going.” (John 12:35, NLT)
4. **DEPRESSION**
“The thought of my pain...is bitter poison; I think of it constantly and my spirit is depressed.” (Lamentations 3:19–20, GNB)

“The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine.” (Isaiah 9:2, NLT)

How God Lights Up Our Darkness

1. His **PROMISE** encourages me.
“The LORD is near to those who are discouraged; he saves those who have lost all hope.” (Psalm 34:18, GNB)
“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11, NLT)
2. His **PRESENCE** strengthens me.

“Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, LORD, for you are with me. Your shepherd’s rod and staff protect me.” (Psalm 23:4, GNB)

“I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me.” (Philippians 4:13, GNB)

3. His **PRINCIPLES** guide me.

“Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”” (John 8:12, NLT)

“Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.” (Psalm 119:105, NLT)

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4. His **PROVISION** transforms me.

“The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.” (John 1:4–5, NLT)

“I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark.” (John 12:46, NLT)

**Action Steps:
Christmas Candlelight Services!
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CLASS 101**