



# MIST DEVOTIONAL

ACTS 13:11-12

“And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you [Elymas], and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time.’ Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.”

## EXPERIENCE

We have all had experiences with fog in which we could not see the way forward. I was canoeing with my son one crisp fall morning. We were headed toward an outlet, but our vision of the sunrise and the outlet was obscured by mist. We could only move in a general direction. The closer we got to the outlet the more difficult it was to see. Inevitably the fog would lift, but in the meantime, it was hard not to be impatient. I hate waiting! Fog seems to heighten impatience. Yet, what seemed like an eternity was only about 15 minutes of time. The

mist evaporated under the sun's increasing intensity and our way forward became clear.

## CONTEMPLATION

The same principle is true in my spiritual life. I often am impatient about the future, particularly when it is filled with the mystery of the unknown. Life is full of moments where the future is unclear. Even though we long for clarity all we seem to experience is the fog of uncertainty. We cannot even guess what the future holds and we find ourselves wondering what God has in store. Perhaps you are in a season of waiting upon his direction because the future is so foggy. You may be waiting for the sun to rise on your circumstances and penetrate the fog and illumine the way forward. We believers long for God to lift the fog so we can take the next step.

The man, Elymas, was struck blind because of sin. The Scriptures say mist fell upon him. Mist, here in Acts 13, is an emblem of his inability to see physically and spiritually. He needed to be led by the hand. Spiritual blindness is a problem when, as was said to Elymas, we make "crooked the straight paths of the Lord" (v. 10). The Bible does not tell us what ultimately happened to Elymas, but it appears that God was using the mist of blindness in his life to offer him an opportunity to repent. He would only be in the mist "for a time" (v. 11). He must turn to God and wait for his sight to be restored.

Application: Whether it is sin, like Elymas, or just the finite nature of our existence that James 4:14 speaks of, there is a lot to meditate upon from this story and from our experience of fog/mist.<sup>1</sup> Are you

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<sup>1</sup> James 4:14 says, "Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes."

experiencing any spiritual blindness or a spiritual blindspot? Turn to the Lord—repent and wait. What part of the future is foggy for you? What does it mean for you to respond to the fog of your life in a godly way? How might you embrace the fog as part of God’s plans to grow your patience and trust? Read Isaiah 44:22 to see how mist relates to repentance.<sup>2</sup>

## PRAYER

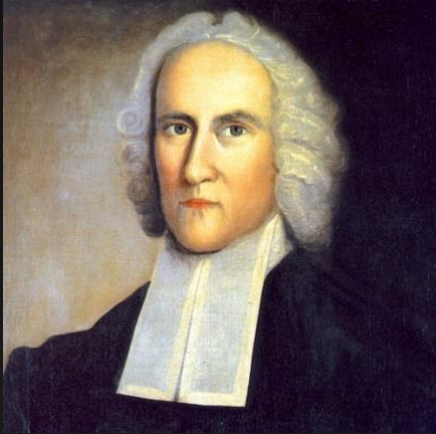
O Lord, I confess that my mind and heart are foggy. I do not, and cannot, see or feel as I ought in this situation. I need the light of your Word to shine through the haze and illumine my mind to the truth. I need the warmth of your love to incline my heart to you. Make me walk in the way that I should go. Lead me on right paths. Amen.

## CONFIRMATION

Fog/Mist is an emblem of God created to remind his people of our inability to see and our need to wait upon the Lord to lead us. 18th century Pastor, Jonathan Edwards conceptualizes mist as something that can blind us to what is true and real. Our vision of the true nature of a situation or a person may easily be obscured so that we cannot see clearly. Our reason and our senses are sometimes at odds with one another. Our senses, even more so our feelings, often do deceive us. Edward’s call is to understand this tendency and to take great pains to use our renewed and Spirit-led minds to walk wisely in the midst of the mist-filled situations of our lives.

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<sup>2</sup> Isaiah 44:22 says, “I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist . . .”.



## Jonathan Edwards

SCIENTIFIC AND PHILOSOPHICAL WRITINGS [[WJE 6:348-349](#)]

“Those ideas which do not pertain to the prime essence of things, such as all colors that are everywhere objected to our eyes, and sounds that are continually in our ears, those that affect the touch as cold and heats, and all our sensations, exceedingly clog the mind in searching into the innermost nature of things, and cast such a mist over things that there is need of a sharp sight to see clearly through. For these will be continually in the mind and associated with other ideas, let us be thinking of what we will, and it is a continual care and pains to keep clear of their entanglements in our scrutinies into things. This is one way whereby the body and the senses [obscure] the views of the mind. The world seems so differently to our eyes, to our ears and other senses, from the idea we have of it by reason, that we can hardly realize the latter.”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Jonathan Edwards, Scientific and Philosophical Writings, [WJE 6:348-349](#).