

Darkness Within

*Lift up the **light** of your face upon us, O LORD!*

Psalm 4.6

Darkness Within

2 years ago:

“What prompted you to do this?”

Love
God

Love
others

Love
self

Introduction to God's Light

I Am the Light of the world

John 8.12

Week 1

Introduction
to God's Light

Week 2

Definition
of God's Light

Week 3

Tim Keller
(Hell)

Week 4

Absence of
God's Light

Week 5

The Glory
of God's Light

Week 6

Tim Keller
(I Am the Light)

Introduction to God's Light

You are the Light of the world

Matthew 5.14

Week 7

Darkness
Within

Week 8

Let Your
Light Shine

Week 9

Tim Keller
(Light of Peace)

Week 10

The Light
of Joy

Week 11

The Light
of Love

Week 12

Testimonies
of God's Light

Darkness Within

Next 6 weeks:

Light as Fruit



Darkness Within

John 15.4-11

Abide in me, and I in you.

As the branch cannot bear **fruit** by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Darkness Within

John 15.4-11

If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit
and so prove to be my disciples.

Darkness Within

John 15.4-11

As the Father has **loved** me, so have I **loved** you. Abide in my **love**. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my **love**, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his **love**.

These things I have spoken to you, that my **joy** may be in you, and that your **joy** may be full.

Darkness Within

John 15.4-11

Observations

Darkness Within

1. God is **glorified** when we bear fruit.
- 2a. We **bear fruit** when we abide in Christ.
- 2b. The fruit of love and joy [*aka reflected light*] organically happens as we abide [*aka absorbed light*] in God's love and joy.
3. Abiding cannot happen if we are "apart from the vine".

Darkness Within

What is the primary cause for you and me to be “apart” from the Vine?

*Do we know **why** we think the way we do?*

*Do we know **why** we say what we do?*

*Do we know **why** we do what we do?*

*Do we even **know ourselves** at all?*

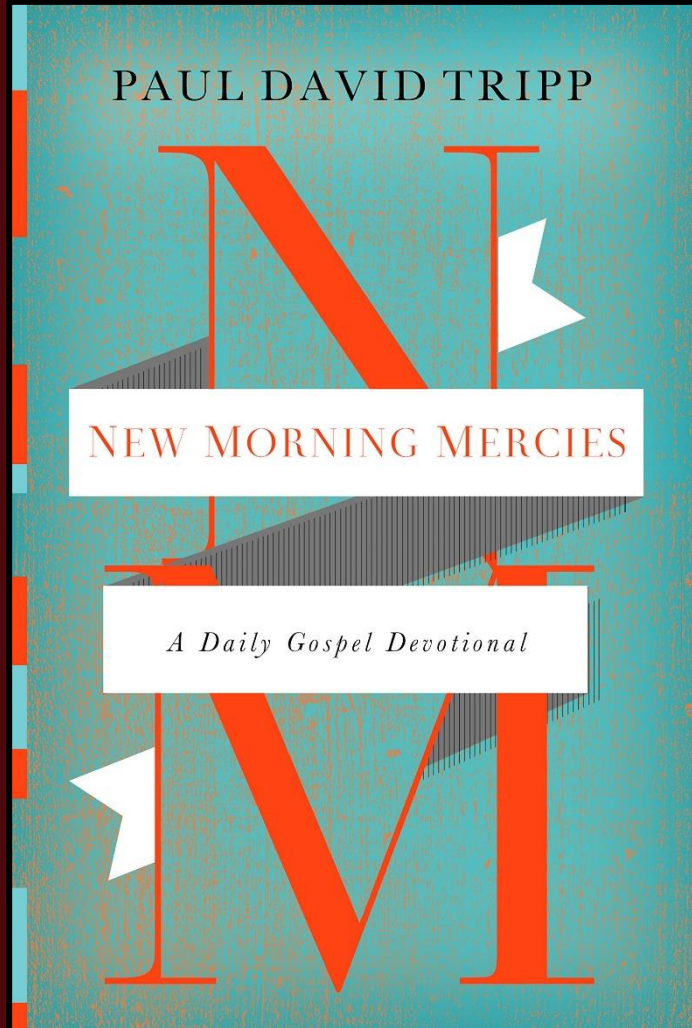
Darkness Within

1. Blind to the Darkness
2. Examination of the Darkness
3. Hope within the Darkness

Darkness Within

1. Blind to the Darkness
2. Examination of the Darkness
3. Hope within the Darkness

Darkness Within



New Morning
Mercies...

Paul David Tripp

June 4th

Darkness Within

I saw it again and again in counseling.
Maybe it was a husband or wife, and
angry teenager, a single person who
had lost her way, or a pastor who had
gotten himself into trouble.

Darkness Within

For all the vast differences in the situations and struggles, they shared a common theme.

All of these people thought they knew themselves, but they didn't.

Darkness Within

They all thought that they saw
themselves with accuracy,
but they didn't.

They all wanted me to agree with
the assessments they had made of
themselves, but I couldn't.

Darkness Within

They all suffered from the same disease, but they denied it.

It didn't take long for me to realize that I was experiencing firsthand a universal human condition that the Bible talks about.

Darkness Within

It's called spiritual blindness.

Sin blinds, and because it does, the sin inside me keeps me from seeing me with clarity.

But that is not all.

Darkness Within

We all also suffer from the fact that
we live most of the time
blind to our blindness.

We don't see ourselves with clarity but
we think we do, and we don't know
ourselves with accuracy, but we are
convinced we do.

Darkness Within

This is why we all tend to be offended
when someone points out a sin,
weakness, or failure.

At the moment when we hear such an
assessment, we struggle...

Darkness Within

...with the fact that what that person has said about us is so fundamentally different from the view of ourselves that we have been carrying around.

So we all need help.

Darkness Within

It comes to us in the gift of God's Word. Empowered by the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit, it is the universe's most accurate mirror.

Darkness Within

You don't need to be **afraid** of all the dark things you **don't see in yourself** but which Scripture reveals about you, because all those dark things have been covered by and defeated by...

Darkness Within

the powerful grace that is yours
in the life, death and resurrection
of Jesus.

Darkness Within

Romans 13.12

The night is far gone; the day is at hand.

So then let us cast off the works of
darkness and put on the **armor of light.**

Darkness Within

There is a darkness within
each of us...
that must be cast off.

Darkness Within

We are in desperate need of
God to clothe us...
with the armor of His light.

Darkness Within

Why do we do what we do?

Do you self-reflect — try to determine
the hidden motives of your heart?

(always, often, seldom, never)

Darkness Within

Why do we do what we do?

Do you self-reflect — try to determine
the hidden motives of your heart?

(always, often, seldom, never)

(You're actually doing it right now 😊)

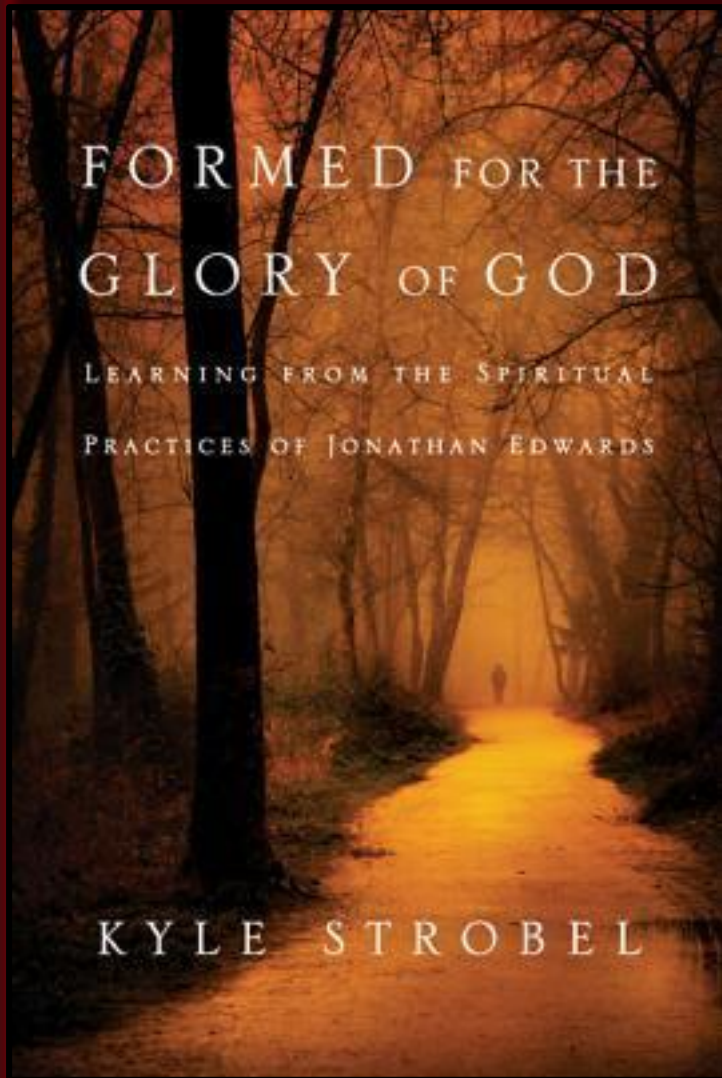
Darkness Within

Why do we do what we do?

Do you self-reflect — try to determine
the hidden motives of your heart?

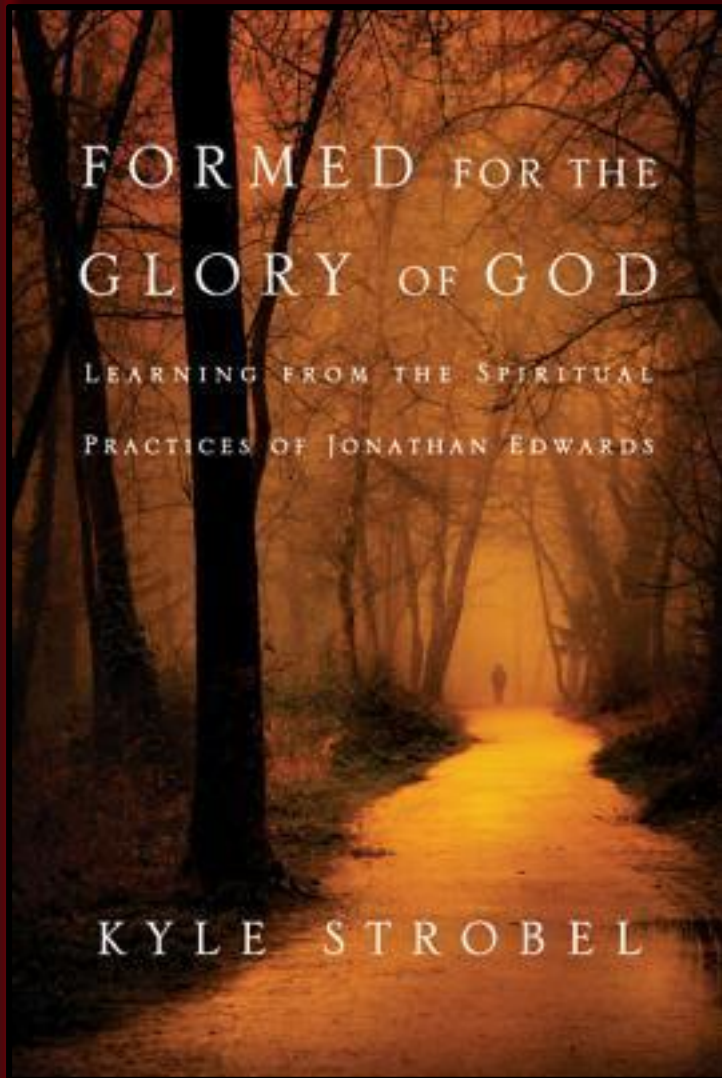
(*always, often, seldom, never*)





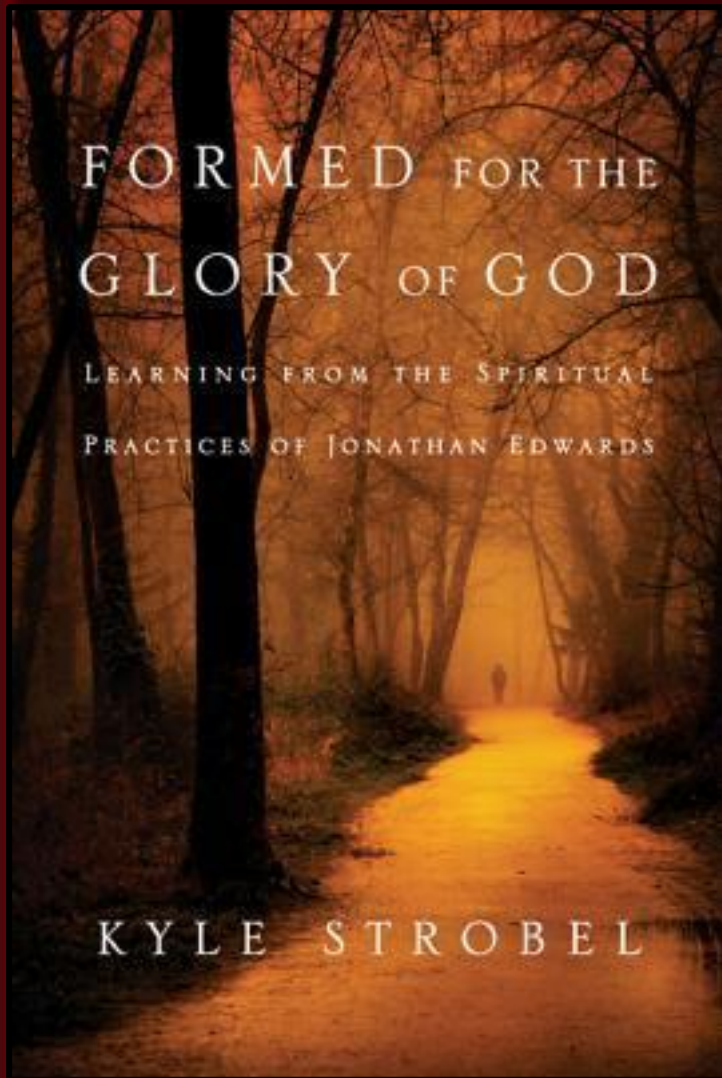
Darkness Within

Only in the grace of God can we open the depths of our depravity before him. Unfortunately, many people try to live in the grace of God and project a false self to him (Ps 32.3-4).



Darkness Within

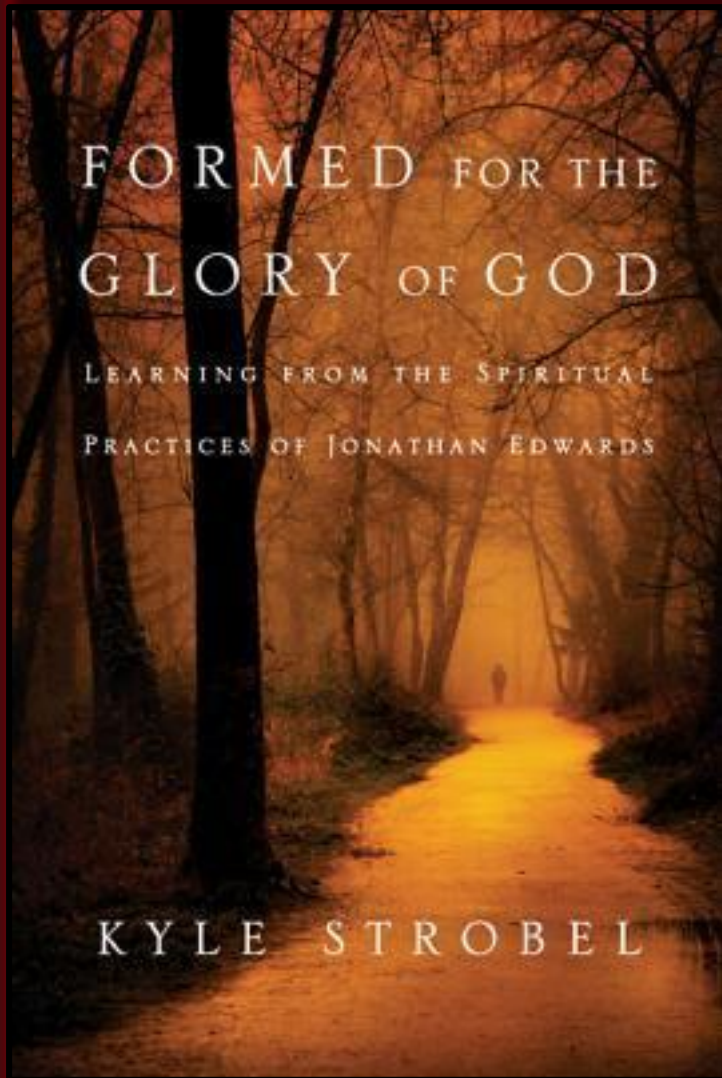
Many try to know God without allowing that knowledge to penetrate to the depths of their hearts. Rather, our call is to have a healthy self-awareness so we can hold open...



Darkness Within

...our failures to God:

- how we praise him with our mouths only,
- pray to him out of guilt,
- use relationships to build ourselves up rather than glorify Christ.



Darkness Within

Without the self-awareness
to unveil how much of our
Christian practice is built on
our flesh,

we inevitably fail to
recognize how our “virtues”
are simply vices in disguise.

Darkness Within

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“He who is alone with his sins is utterly alone.

It may be that Christians, notwithstanding corporate worship, common prayer, and all their fellowship in service,
may still be left to their loneliness.

Darkness Within

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The final breakthrough to fellowship does not occur because, though they have fellowship with one another as believers and as devout people, they do not have fellowship as the undevout, as sinners.

Darkness Within

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The pious fellowship permits no one to be
a sinner.

So everyone must conceal his sin from himself
and from their fellowship.

We dare not be sinners.

Darkness Within

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Many Christians are unthinkably horrified when a real sinner is suddenly discovered among the righteous.

So we remain alone with our sin, living in lies and hypocrisy.”

Darkness Within

Your true enemy wants you to feel
very much alone and afraid.

He wants to bully you into patterns of
behavior that advance into addictions.

There is an enemy within each of us that
only grace can conquer.

Darkness Within

Universal Truth:

(we must be aware of...)

(...and not get discouraged by)

Darkness Within

The closer I get to
God's Light,
the more I see my
darkness and...



Darkness Within

The more I see my
darkness, the
more I recognize
my need for
God's Light.



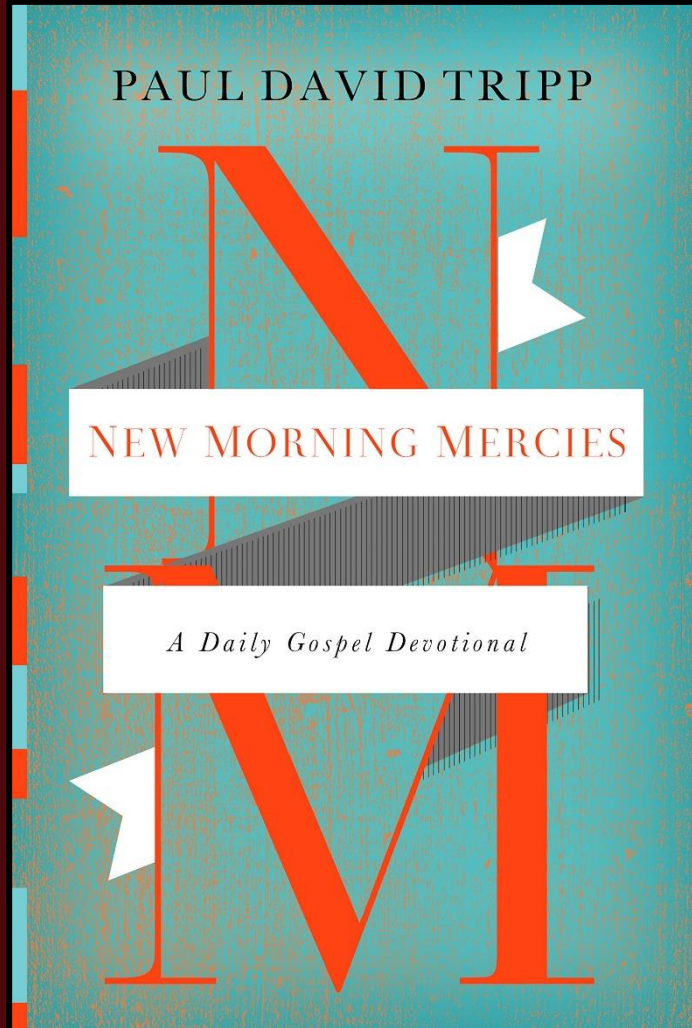
Darkness Within

1. Blind to the Darkness
2. Examination of the Darkness
3. Hope within the Darkness

Darkness Within

1. Blind to the Darkness
2. Examination of the Darkness
3. Hope within the Darkness

Darkness Within



New Morning
Mercies...

Paul David Tripp

July 10th

Darkness Within

The Development of Need-Driven Addiction

1. Desire (*I want...*) – nothing evil yet, created this way
2. Demand (*I must...*) – open hand closes, it takes hold
3. Need (*I will...*) – cannot live without it, fear-based life
4. Expectation (*You should...*) – entitled to it; my right
5. Disappointment (*You didn't...*) – doubt God's love
6. Anger (*Because you didn't, I will...*) – autonomy

Darkness Within

The Three Trees

My last lap...

Why three?



Darkness Within

Mark 15.25-33

And it was the third hour when they crucified him. And the inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” **And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left.**

And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!”

Darkness Within

Mark 15.25-33

So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.”

Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

And when the sixth hour[noon] had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour[3pm].

Darkness Within

Matthew 27.44

And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled
him in the same way.

Darkness Within

Luke 23.32-33

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

Darkness Within

Luke 23.39-43

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? **Save yourself and us!**” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but **this man has done nothing wrong.**”

Darkness Within

Luke 23.39-43

And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Darkness Within

unbelief →



Secure
in Christ

← *I believe
– help my
unbelief*



Skeptic
of Christ

1st tree



Seeker
of Christ

2nd tree

3rd tree

Darkness Within

The Skeptic

What can you do for me?

“Save yourself – and us!”

What happened to him?

Ambiguity is deliberate.

There is always hope for the skeptic.



1st tree

Darkness Within

The Skeptic

*I left the first tree years ago
but still return to it from
time to time either through
unbelief or trying to use
Christ to **glorify self**.*



1st tree

Darkness Within



3rd tree



1st tree



2nd tree

Darkness Within

The Seeker

*I sometimes find myself
frustrated and worn out by
the journey.*

*My tendency is to focus on the
“not yet” rather than the
“already”.*



2nd tree

Darkness Within

The Seeker

*Most of my life seems to be spent
living between the second
and third trees.*

*Where is rest to be found?
Acting more like Martha than
Mary who chose the Good.*



2nd tree

Darkness Within



Secure
in Christ

3rd tree



Skeptic
of Christ

1st tree



Seeker
of Christ

2nd tree



Darkness Within



3rd tree

The Secure

Which means more to you?

“I am in Christ” or *“Christ is in me”*.

Darkness Within



3rd tree

The Secure

“I am in Christ” should mean more than “Christ is in me”.

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (*Jn 15.5*)

Darkness Within

Third Tree Security

Resting in God's Presence

In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. *(Eph 2.22)*

Resting in God's Providence

In him we live and move and have our being. *(Acts 17.28)*

Resting in God's Promises

For all the promises of God find their Yes **in him**. *(2 Cor 1.20)*

Darkness Within

Ephesians 1:4 - even as **he chose us in him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

Ephesians 1:7 - **In him we have redemption** through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

Ephesians 1:10 - as a plan for the fullness of time, to **unite all things in him**, things in heaven and things on earth.

Ephesians 1:11 - **In him we have obtained an inheritance**, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

Ephesians 1:13 - **In him you also**, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, **were sealed** with the promised Holy Spirit...

Darkness Within

So I need to:

“let go and let God”?

(no and yes)

Darkness Within

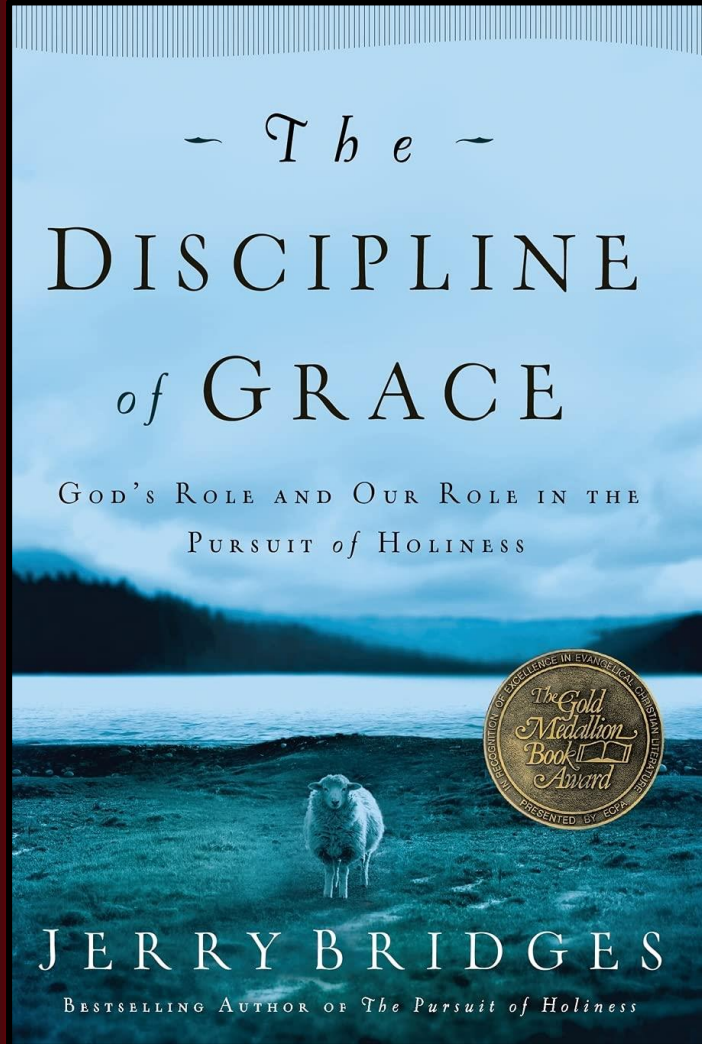
Colossians 1.29

For this I toil,
struggling with all his energy
that he powerfully works within me.

I work at finding my rest in Him!

(come to Me – all who labor...)

Darkness Within



A lot of Christians seem to think that the grace of God and the vigorous pursuit of holiness are antithetical — that is, in direct and unequivocal opposition to one another. (p.12)

Darkness Within

Hope...

for those of us worn out
by the ongoing, never-ending struggle
with the darkness within.

Darkness Within

1. Blind to the Darkness
2. Examination of the Darkness
3. Hope within the Darkness

Darkness Within

1. Blind to the Darkness
2. Examination of the Darkness
3. Hope within the Darkness

Darkness Within

The Magnificent Defeat

Frederick Buechner

“For what we need to know, of course, is **not just that God exists**, not just that beyond the steely brightness of the stars there is a cosmic intelligence of some kind that keeps the whole show going...

Darkness Within

The Magnificent Defeat

Frederick Buechner

but that there is a **God right here in the thick of our day-by-day lives** who may not be writing messages about himself in the stars but in one way or another is trying to get messages through our blindness...

Darkness Within

The Magnificent Defeat

Frederick Buechner

as we move around down here knee-deep
in the fragrant muck and misery and marvel
of the world.

It is not objective proof of God's existence that
we want but the experience of God's presence.

Darkness Within

The Magnificent Defeat

Frederick Buechner

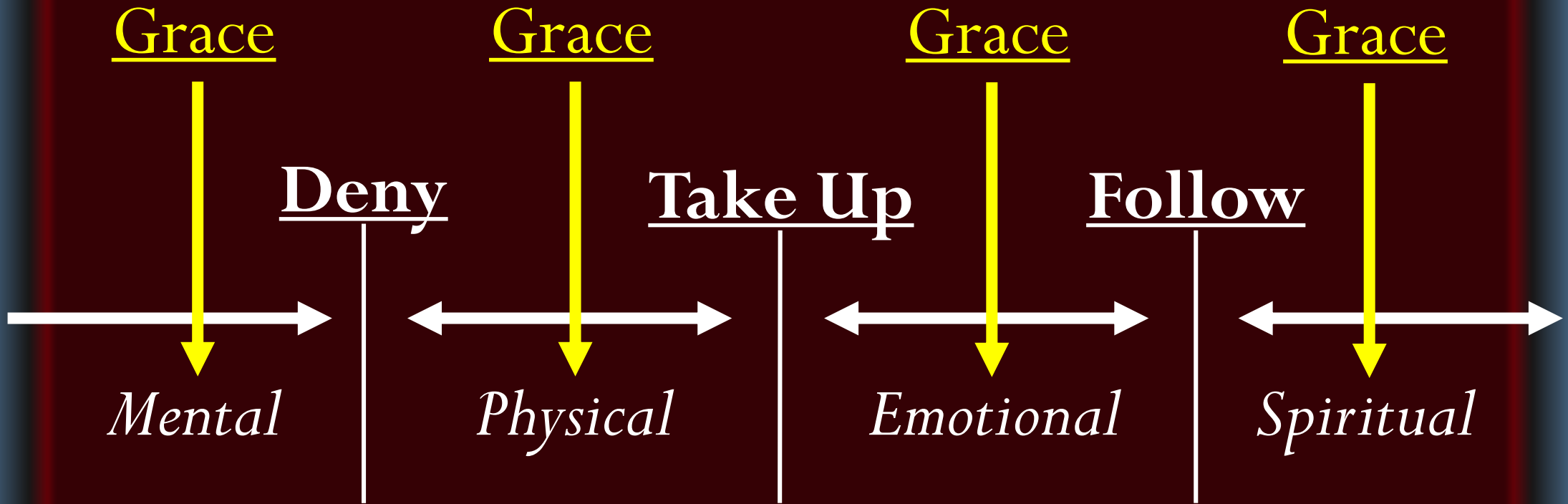
That is the miracle we are really after,
and that is also, I think,
the miracle that we really get.”

Darkness Within

Matthew 16.24

Then Jesus told his disciples,
“If anyone would come after me,
let him deny himself and
take up his cross and follow me.”

Darkness Within



Darkness Within

Deny (*your self*)

Never an end in itself...

Always meant to lead to love

Pharisees were experts

Darkness Within

Deny (*your self*)

1. Eliminate “me time”.
2. Eliminate “triggers”.
3. Be imaginative and creative.
4. Be intentionally ruthless.

Darkness Within

Take up your cross

An instrument of death

Your individual strategy for
killing personal sin

Darkness Within

Follow Me *(with all your heart)*

What does this look like for you?

Are you trusting the Holy Spirit to lead?

Do you have Margin?

Is there love, joy and peace in the pursuit?

Darkness Within

Observations

1. We sometimes separate denial from it's purpose.
2. We sometimes try to follow without denial or taking up our cross.
3. The three imperatives are together and ordered.
4. Result: (*Mt 16.25*)...we are promised to find life.

Darkness Within

Matthew 16.25

For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Darkness Within

Whenever I have trouble
understanding something

spiritual,

I try to think about it from a
physical or practical point of view.

Darkness Within

Mental

Physical

Emotional

Physical

Emotional

Spiritual

| | Deny | Take up | Follow |
|--|------|---------|--------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Darkness Within

Mental

Physical

Emotional

Physical

Emotional

Spiritual

| | Deny | Take up | Follow |
|-------------|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <i>diet</i> | quantity poor quality | scale | motive? |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Darkness Within

Mental

Physical

Emotional

Physical

Emotional

Spiritual

| | Deny | Take up | Follow |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <i>diet</i> | quantity poor quality | scale | motive? |
| <i>exercise</i> | laziness | running | motive? |
| | | | |

Darkness Within

Mental

Physical

Emotional

Physical

Emotional

Spiritual

| | Deny | Take up | Follow |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <i>diet</i> | quantity poor quality | scale | motive? |
| <i>exercise</i> | laziness | running | motive? |
| <i>finances</i> | impulsive purchases | budget | motive? |

Darkness Within

Obedience:

Immediately

Completely

Sweetly

| | Deny | Take up | Follow |
|--|------|---------|--------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Darkness Within

Colossians 1.12-14

giving thanks to the Father, who has **qualified** you to share in the **inheritance of the saints in light**.

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.

Darkness Within

I have been...

qualified (*adopted by my Father*)
given an inheritance
delivered from darkness
transferred into Christ
redeemed and forgiven

Darkness Within

Luke 1.78-79

because of the tender mercy of our God,
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in
the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Darkness Within

*Lift up the **light** of your face upon us, O LORD!*

Psalm 4.6