

I was with some of my grandchildren when we ran into friends who had been to the Black Hills. We talked about the various sites they had visited, and they told us about going to one of the underground caves. My granddaughter piped in, "We were there, and when they turned the lights off, we could not see anything. It was scary!!" Later, she said they could not even see their hands in front of their faces.

In the book of Exodus and the story of Moses and the 10 plagues, Moses was speaking to Pharaoh. The Lord told Moses to stretch out his hand toward heaven, and there would be a plague of darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness that can be felt.

"During all that time the people could not see each other, and for three days they did not move from where they were." Exodus 10:23

Can you imagine being in pitch blackness for three days?!! I would think that would be a fearful time for Egypt and it seemed that Pharaoh would allow the Israelites to leave Egypt. However, his heart remained hardened, and he refused to yield to God.

Spiritually, darkness represents what is sinful and evil. In the dark, if you can see at all, different objects look alike; in the light, good and evil can be easily distinguished. Just as darkness cannot exist in the presence of light, sin cannot exist in the presence of a holy God.

1 John 2:9 "He who says he is in the light and hates his brother is in the darkness still. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and in it there is no cause for stumbling. But he who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes."

1 John 1:5-7 "God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth, but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."

The statement that God is light means that God is perfectly holy and true and that he alone can guide us out of the darkness of sin, showing us the right path. We become hypocrites if we say we belong to Him but then go out and live only for ourselves with little thought of serving others. As Auxiliary members, we should be reaching out to our communities and helping those in need. We may even find new members.

John 8:12 "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Lord, help us be the light in dark places. Amen.

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