



59. A Dark Night of the Soul

Job said, "Behold, I go forward but He [God] is not there, and backward, but I cannot perceive Him; When He acts on the left, I cannot behold Him; He turns on the right, I cannot see Him. But He knows the way I take; when He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold. My foot has held fast to His path; I have kept His way and not turned aside. I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my

necessary food. But He is unique and who can turn Him? And what His soul desires, that He does," Job 23:8-13.

Does it feel like God has turned His back on you? Does He seem to be unavailable, silent, distant, and unreachable? Jeremiah 23:23-24 tells us that God is near in those dark times. There is nowhere that you can go that is away from His presence, Psalm 139:7-10. But sometimes, we can't seem to find Him. We look in front, in back, to the left, and to the right, but He is not to be found. We have been obedient, but we feel that we are in a desperately lonely place away from His presence.

Are you in one of those dark nights of the soul? Does God seem to be hiding, silent, and distant? Know that He is with you. He hasn't left you. He knows where you are. He's there with your every step. His silence is refining you as gold. He wants you to know that He is sovereign in your life ... that He does what He pleases. Psalm 135:6 says, *“Whatever the Lord pleases, He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.”*

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