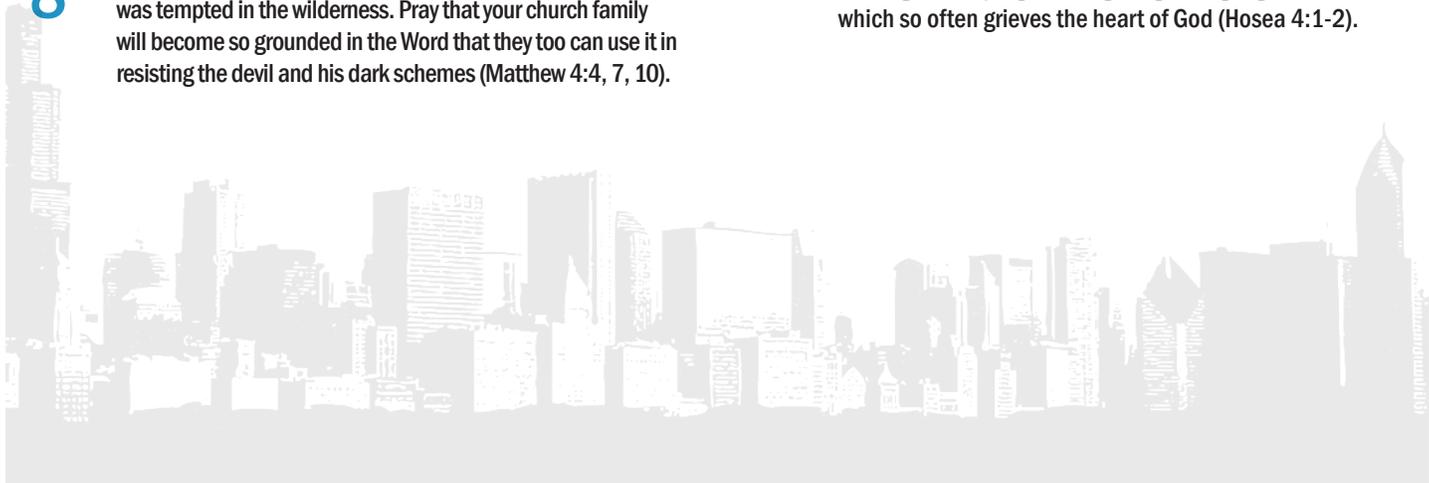


## PUSHING BACK THE DARKNESS

“This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God” (John 3:19-21 NASB).

- 1 Jesus burst into the realm of mankind as the light of the world. Pray that men and women across the country will realize that by loving the darkness of sin and rejecting the light of Christ, they fall under judgment (John 3:19).
- 2 In Romans 13:12, Paul encourages believers to “lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.” Pray that those in your church family will daily live in repentance and clothe themselves in the righteousness of Jesus.
- 3 Pray for those in your church family who practice the truth to do so in such a way as to declare to those living in darkness that Jesus can truly change their lives (Matthew 4:16).
- 4 Lift up before God the name of someone you know who is walking in spiritual darkness. Pray that this person will be drawn to the light of Jesus in order to be saved (John 8:12).
- 5 Pray that as followers of Jesus, Christians will live lives that reflect no longer the characteristics and ways of darkness, but the holy nature of Jesus (Ephesians 5:8).
- 6 In Acts 26:17-18, Paul shared how Jesus sent him to the Gentiles in order “to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God.” Ask God to help each of us understand our role in partnering with Him to help others turn from darkness to the light of Jesus.
- 7 Pray that your church family will remember today that their struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual powers of this world’s darkness (Ephesians 6:12).
- 8 Jesus used God’s Word to powerfully resist the devil, when He was tempted in the wilderness. Pray that your church family will become so grounded in the Word that they too can use it in resisting the devil and his dark schemes (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10).
- 9 Paul told the Thessalonians that they were not of night or darkness, but were all “sons of light and sons of day” (1 Thessalonians 5:4-6). Pray that we too will walk as children of light, being spiritually sober and alert as we eagerly await Jesus’ return.
- 10 According to 1 John 2:9-10, the one who “hates his brother is in the darkness,” while “the one who loves his brother abides in the Light.” Pray that as brothers and sisters in Christ, we will repent of hating other believers and will genuinely love one another through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 11 Not wanting to have our sinful ways exposed, our culture often paints sin as good, and righteousness as evil. Pray that in your community, people will begin to see the darkness of sin like God sees it (Isaiah 5:20).
- 12 In Ephesians 5:11, Paul exhorted believers to “not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them.” Ask God to give us wisdom in exposing the realities of darkness in order to protect those under our spiritual care.
- 13 Movies continually depict scenes filled with spiritual darkness. Pray that Christians will lose their appetite for films that promote violence, sexual immorality, and ungodliness. Pray that those who control and influence this industry will be born again and experience personal revival (Ezekiel 18:30).
- 14 Over the years, secular television has become a major tool in the promotion of darkness. Pray that Christians will no longer choose to expose themselves and their families to unrighteous programming, vulgar language, and that which so often grieves the heart of God (Hosea 4:1-2).



- 15** As your church family prepares to meet this weekend, ask God to reveal any sinful ways of darkness that may be keeping you all from corporately walking in the truth (1 John 1:6).
- 16** For decades, the music industry—often producing lyrics and scenes promoting rebellion, violence, paganism, and sexual immorality—has contributed to the spiritual decline of many. Pray for a revival that will cause healthy change in the music industry and those influenced by it (Psalm 33:2-3).
- 17** Christians are often tempted to view pornographic websites on their private computers. Ask God to protect the members of your congregation from the imprisoning influence of pornography (Job 31:1).
- 18** A flood of printed resources promoting humanism, New Age living, eastern mysticism, false religions, and other vain philosophies has spread across the country. Pray that God will minimize the influence of these resources as He brings us back to a greater knowledge of His Son (Colossians 2:8).
- 19** Throughout our land are many bars and private clubs where drunkenness and immorality are promoted. Pray that the owners of these businesses will have radical encounters with Jesus and will be led by God to remove these kinds of influences from our cities (Ephesians 5:18).
- 20** Intoxication among minors is a major concern in many communities. Pray that Christian parents, local law enforcement agencies, and public school officials will work together to curb this life-endangering practice (Proverbs 20:1).
- 21** Pray that the trafficking of illegal drugs in your community will come to a complete stop. Pray for the safety of your law enforcement agents as they face dangers protecting your neighborhoods from the crimes, violence, and dangers associated with drugs and those who use them (Romans 12:2).
- 22** There is a fellowship shared by believers as we walk in the light as Jesus is in the light (1 John 1:7). Pray that as your church meets together this weekend, the joy of that fellowship will be realized, and sin will be exposed and cleansed.
- 23** Gambling, in both legal and illegal settings, has a way of destroying families by robbing those involved of their financial resources. Pray that Christians will flee from the temptations and struggles associated with this deceptive activity (1 Timothy 6:10).
- 24** Domestic violence seems to be on the rise in many parts of the country. Pray that husbands, wives, children, and extended family members will learn to live in peace and harmony, daily demonstrating the love of Jesus to each other (Ephesians 5:21).
- 25** Divorce, though declining nationally as many couples choose to live together without marrying, continues to be a major practice inside and outside the church. Pray that biblical standards of marriage will be restored among Christians and throughout this nation (Malachi 2:15-16).
- 26** Pray that we will experience a revival that removes from our country the belief that abortion is always a legitimate choice (Jeremiah 1:5).
- 27** Criminal behavior has been so glamorized by the entertainment industry, and the importance of the Ten Commandments so minimized by our culture, that lawlessness abounds. Ask God to send a spiritual awakening to our nation that produces great love for and obedience to God (Mathew 24:12).
- 28** In some communities, racial and ethnic prejudices are still very predominant. Please pray that Christians will genuinely love each other and those around them, regardless of race, nationality, or color (Colossians 3:11).
- 29** Sadly, many church members live no differently than they did before professing to know Christ. Their ways still reflect the darkness of the world system around them. Ask God to send a revival that will make Christians authentic in their walk with Him (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- 30** As Christians struggle to reconcile social justice, political correctness, and biblical truth, ask God to help the churches in your community “examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22).
- 31** Pray that today’s church will not function under the dark cloud of legalism but in the light of God’s grace, truth, and love (Romans 8:3-4).