

**Chapter 52++: Light, Darkness, and BFIAT**

**Life Application Verses:**

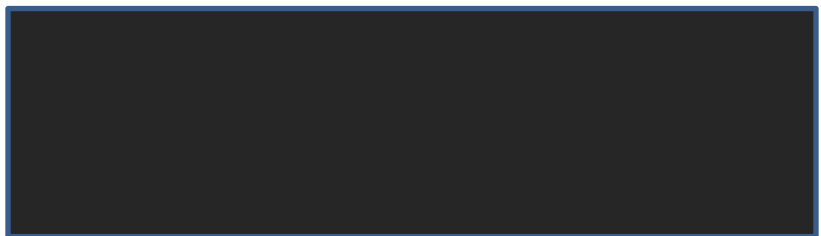
**1 John 1: 5-7 (ESV)** *This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*

wanted to  
provide the  
image you  
see here  
with the  
lights on.  
This picture  
is from the



DeSoto Caverns in Childersburg, Alabama. Now, it is more than likely that you have experienced darkness at times in your life, and I am literally speaking for the moment about the lights going off—EVERYWHERE! If the moon is full, you will be amazed at how much light it provides in a totally dark location. Or, you might have been to a beach and if there was NO LIGHT in the area, you can see billions of stars with the simple effort of just looking up. But, let’s return to the image you see above. This cavern, like all caverns, is within the depths of the Earth. It is away from any light source except the lights man has installed along with Alabama Power to provide energy for the lights to ‘shine.’ Now, STOP WHAT YOU ARE DOING!!!! CLOSE YOUR EYES! PLACE YOUR HANDS OVER YOUR EYES. Count a full 60 seconds! (NO CHEATING ON THIS—I MEAN EXACTLY 60 Seconds!). FOCUS ON THE DARKNESS. Now, what did you see?

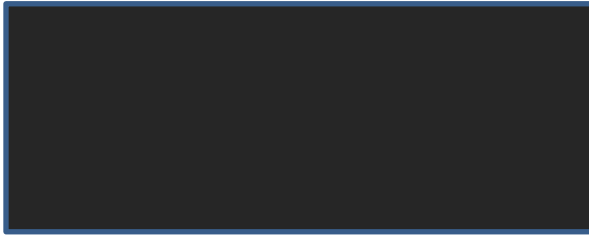
Generally, you saw this:  
Now, you might have seen variations of darkness, but you saw darkness. When the lights



in the DeSoto Caverns are turned off, you are cast into utter darkness—I MEAN PURE DARKNESS LIKE YOU CANNOT IMAGINE! There is no light, no hint of light, no spots before your eyes, no

suggestions of light, and no hope that if the lights do not come back on you would ever find your way out of the caverns. Once the light goes off, you are literally cast into the most brutal darkness imaginable. Have you ever thought about this? God made the light and the darkness, but what are these two things? If there is no light, it is darkness. And if there is darkness, there is the absence of light. There's no gray area here; it is either ONE or the OTHER! ABSOLUTE! What do you get in the absolute absence of any light? You get complete darkness. Try this visual:

***You and Darkness***



***You and Light***



These two images are EXACT! The only difference is that the word YOU is inside the dark frame precisely as it is in the light frame. But, where did YOU go? You didn't go anywhere! You are just covered up, surrounded, permeated, and saturated, by the darkness. DO YOU SEE WHAT WE ARE in the absence of light? Do you see how this illustration precisely validates the Life Application Verses:

*"This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that 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 practice 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" (1 John 1: 5-7 (ESV)).*

How many of you out there are afraid of the dark? You know, you would rather take out the trash when it is daylight! Maybe you are like the little fellow in this story<sup>1</sup>: A little boy was afraid of the dark. One night his mother told him to go out to the back porch and bring her the broom. The little boy turned to his mother and said, "Mama, I don't want to go out there. It's dark." The mother smiled reassuringly at her son. "You don't have to be afraid of the dark," she explained. "Jesus is out there. He'll look after you and protect you." The little boy looked at his mother real

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<sup>1</sup> Source: <http://www.funny.com/cgi-bin/WebObjects/Funny.woa/wa/funny?fn=C30MO>

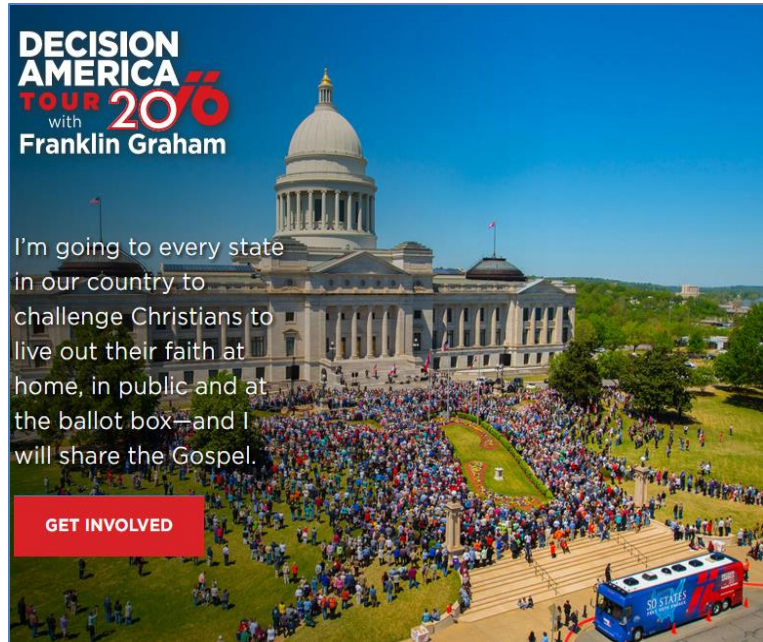
hard and asked, "Are you sure he's out there?" "Yes, I'm sure. He is everywhere, and he is always ready to help you when you need him," she said. The little boy thought about that for a minute and then went to the back door and cracked it a little. Peering out into the darkness, he called, "Jesus? If you're out there, would you please hand me the broom?" Any of us like that? While that may be humorous, let's consider for a moment what it means to be in the dark or in darkness—better stated, to walk in the darkness--Spiritually.

If you think about it, there are ONLY two states in terms of light: the presence of light and the absence of light—which we call darkness. If God in Christ is The Light, and we have not Christ, we have darkness. Period! Finito! Done! Over! Adios! End of story! Eternally lost! Woe is us! And if we end up at the end of our lives Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good deficient without Christ, we will be cast into utter darkness. Consider for example, the following description from Got Questions Ministries @ <http://www.gotquestions.org/outer-darkness.html>:

**Question:** "What is the outer darkness in Matthew 22:13?"

**Answer:** In the Parable of the Wedding Feast, Jesus tells of a "wedding crasher" of sorts: a man in the wedding hall was discovered to have entered the feast without authorization. Jesus says that the king, the master of the feast, issued a dire command concerning the interloper: "Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness" (ESV). Jesus uses the term "outer darkness" in the parable to describe a condition of great sorrow, loss and woe. It stands in vivid contrast to the brightly lit and joyous celebration attended by those who accepted the king's invitation. Interpreting the wedding feast as heaven, the "outer darkness" must be the place of eternal punishment. Most Bible scholars agree that the phrase "outer darkness" refers to hell or, more properly, the lake of fire (Matthew 8:12; 13:42; 13:50; and 25:23). The outer darkness of Jesus' parable is called "blackest darkness" in Jude 1:13. Again, a place of judgment is the obvious meaning, since it is reserved for "godless men" (verse 4). Perhaps the place of judgment is pictured as "dark" because of the absence of God's cheering presence. "When you hide your face, they are terrified" (Psalms 104:29). God is called "light" in 1 John 1:5, and if He withdraws His blessing, only darkness is left. Throughout the Scriptures light symbolizes God's purity, holiness, and glory. Darkness is used as a symbol of moral depravity (Psalms 82:5; Proverbs 2:13; Romans 3:12). Darkness can also refer to trouble and affliction (Job 5:12; Proverbs 20:20; Isaiah 9:2) and to death and nothingness (1 Samuel 2:9; Ecclesiastes 11:8; Job 3:4-6). The outer darkness of judgment is accompanied by "weeping and gnashing of teeth." The "weeping" describes an inner pain of the heart, mind, and soul. The word in the original denotes a bewailing or lamentation by beating the breast in an expression of immense sorrow. The "gnashing of teeth" describes an outward pain of the body. Taken together, the weeping and gnashing of teeth says hell is a place of indescribable spiritual agony and unending physical pain (see Luke 16:23-28). The outer darkness is a place of anguish, heartache, grief, and unspeakable suffering. Such will be the lot of all who reject Christ (John 3:18, 36). Christ is the Light of the World (John 8:12). When one rejects the Light, he will be cast into eternal darkness. Just like the man in the parable, the one who rejects Christ will lose his chance for joy, blessing and fellowship and will be left with nothing but darkness and eternal regret.

Does the above description give us pause? Does it cause in us a trembling of Soul? If we have Christ as our Redeemer, the above verses are reflective; if we know not Christ, these verses are a dire warning! But how many people do you know that would rather live in the darkness than in the Light of Christ? At this writing, Franklin Graham (I've noted this somewhere in these chapters) in 2016, is visiting the capital of every state. He came to Montgomery, Alabama, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April 2016. It is the Decision America Tour 2016, in which Mr. Graham Prays for the state, its citizens, encourages Christian Political Conservatism as it should



be practiced, and he then delivers a short message. One of his statements was, “Jesus Christ is not dead” (Franklin Graham, 14April2016, Montgomery, Alabama). This statement has a simple translation: Jesus is the Light of the World! If we have Christ, we have The Light; if we do not have Christ, we are in darkness. There’s no half-truth to this; it cannot be talked-away or logically removed from Truth; nor can it be covered up by our ‘politically or religiously correct-mindedness’ secular world. There’s no dimmer switch in Salvation: it is, or it is not!

So, my Christian friends, brothers, and sisters: consider the future of those you know who do not know Christ Jesus. God in Christ has made it clear that apart from Jesus, no man shall see the Father or enter into the Gates of Heaven. That being said, there is only one alternative left. If we are not to spend Eternity in the Light, we will spend Eternity separated from the Light, and as the verses have already noted, that is a horrible existence to imagine. We, who are saved, have a responsibility to share the Light of Christ as never before because it is our responsibility, or what you might consider—BFIAT. Be Faithful In All Things! From Prayer to our Witness. Jesus has rescued us from this darkness and we must be faithful to do the same for others. Let them call

us Radicals for Jesus, if they like; for they DO NOT UNDERSTAND what they do. As Jesus forgave the thief on the cross that called out to him, so should we BFIAT to help those who are lost.

You and I must understand that the light we have in this physical life is for our benefit of being able to work in the day and rest in the night, so to speak. But, in terms of Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good, we MUST be extraordinary for the cause of Christ as a sea of witnesses of His Grace, Forgiveness, and Love to save those that are lost! Why? Because as the story of the little boy who feared to go into the dark to retrieve the broom might cause us to smile, being lost as a person entering Eternity is far removed from a laughing matter. Those individuals will spend Eternity in total darkness, denied any source of light! Can you imagine anything more terrible than that? This outer darkness is separation from Christ, who is the True Source of Light! IN order to fully understand what this means, think about the time you were in the most darkened place in your ENTIRE life. How dark was it? Were you able to see? Did it enhance your sense of hearing, could you feel your pulse, were your very movements acute? You understand? Now, multiply that by a factor of total and outer darkness: there is no light, hope of light, and hope of escape from that utter darkness. That is HELL! And to add to this horror, what if Hell is a place where we are alone...in the darkness...but for the torment...as Jesus said. Just thinking about this gives me the 'shimmies.' (Shimmies are when you think of something and it causes you to experience a rapid shaking of your body as if to cast it off from your being!)

After the shimmies, I began to think about the lyrics of songs I have sung in church or heard often on the radio: 1) the *Rescue the Perishing* Hymn (Appendix 1); 2) *How Deep The Father's Love For Us*, a radio song, (Appendix 2); and, 3) *Rescue The Perishing*, (Appendix 3). Now, before I close in discussing these lyrics, let me speak to the darkness one final time. I am writing this, right now, at the crazy hour of 4:10AM, Central Standard Time. Why? I often wake up and start thinking about stuff; once this happens, I don't even fight it—I just get up and write for a bit. Outside, at this hour of the 24-hour cycle of life, IT IS DARK! The sun has set many hours ago, the moon is not out this evening, and if the lights were to suddenly go off, I would be in utter darkness. And so eerily quiet! When our familyl was in the DeSoto Caverns in Childersburg a few years ago, the darkness I experienced was not only complete, the fullness of a sudden silence was unnerving. Without Christ Jesus, not only are we in total darkness, but we are hearing silence



in our ears, Spirit, and lives. I ask you to think about this and to consider those who are lost. They think they have light, but that is an illusion of this world. We must understand that the life they are living is total darkness and separation from God through Christ. We must rescue them, for they are truly indeed the perishing!

**Question of Curiosity:  
The Rich Man and Lazarus**  
Luke 16: 19-31 (NIV)

*“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.*

*“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’*

*“But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’*

*“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’*

*“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’*

*“‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’*

*“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”*

**This story is about those who today, in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century live in darkness. Should we reach them before it is too late? Does this story not make you weep for the lost???? If not, why not...? And you say...**

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**“In faith there is enough light for those who want to believe and enough shadows to blind those who don't.”**

~ *Blaise Pascal* ~

**“The issue is now clear. It is between light and darkness and everyone must choose his side.”**

~ *G. K. Chesterton* ~

**“We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.”**

~ *Plato* ~

**“The baby bat, Screamed out in fright,  
'Turn on the dark, I'm afraid of the light.”**

~ *Shel Silverstein* ~

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**My Prayer For You:**

Most Holy God, God of all Things, and I Am That I Am: I have walked in darkness and I have seen your Light in Christ Jesus. I choose the Light, for it offers Hope, Love, and Eternal Life—where we have been promised no more tears or pain or darkness. I Pray for every lost Soul that knows not the Salvation You have provided—freely—to those who would but fall to their knees and seek Your Gift in Jesus. For when we receive Christ, Light comes into our Sprit so that we might live in The Light, even when we stumble and fall down; Christ gives us Light to see our path. I Pray, O God, for my children and grandchildren, that the Light of Christ might shine in their lives as they grow stronger in Faith, and that my little precious ‘gran-baby-birds’ Kotabear and Santi will grow up to know You, Father, through a life of Serving and Obedience in Jesus. I fear for their safety and comfort in a world that is growing more dark every single day. The Light of Christ is freely given to mankind, but we have rejected Your Love and Light is so many homes, cities, and nations. Because of this rejection of Your Love in Christ, I Pray that Jesus will return sooner than later; that my children and grandchildren and wife and parents (Mom is waiting for us now) will be ready for the Trumpet---that, O God of Heaven, must be surely at the ready to sound! I Pray that those who are blinded by the enemy will have their eyes opened because utter darkness for all eternity is their destiny, should they continue to reject You in Christ Jesus. We sing Rescue the Perishing, O Lord, yet they know not that they are even in danger. The lost of this world who live in darkness of murder, evils of all kinds, and hatred, have become such a harbinger of darkness that we, who desire to live in the Light of Christ, have fear for ourselves and our families. We know that You hold the Keys of Live and Death, and of Heaven or Hell; we bow before Your Throne of Mercy and Grace and Love and Salvation to plead for this world of darkness. We plead for Mercy for our little ones and for those that are lost and hopeless. For should the lost leave this world in Darkness of Soul on this Earth; they shall forever live in a World of Utter Darkness for all Eternity---and they shall wail and gnash in utter darkness and loneliness. Amen and Amen.

### Appendix 1

1. Rescue the perishing, care for the dying,  
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave;  
Weep o'er the erring one, lift up the fallen,  
Tell them of Jesus, the mighty to save.

*Refrain:*

Rescue the perishing, care for the dying,  
Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

2. Though they are slighting Him, still He is waiting,  
Waiting the penitent child to receive;  
Plead with them earnestly, plead with them gently;  
He will forgive if they only believe.

*Refrain:*

Rescue the perishing, care for the dying,  
Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

3. Down in the human heart, crushed by the tempter,  
Feelings lie buried that grace can restore;  
Touched by a loving heart, wakened by kindness,  
Chords that were broken will vibrate once more.

*Refrain:*

Rescue the perishing, care for the dying,  
Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

4. Rescue the perishing, duty demands it;  
Strength for thy labor the Lord will provide;  
Back to the narrow way patiently win them;  
Tell the poor wand'rer a Savior has died.

*Refrain:*

Rescue the perishing, care for the dying,  
Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

© Words, Fanny J. Crosby, 1869; Tune RESCUE, William H. Doane, 1869



## Appendix 2

Phillips, Craig, and Dean  
*How Deep The Father's Love For Us*

How deep the Father's love for us  
How vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure

How great the pain of searing loss  
The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon the cross  
My sin upon His shoulders  
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything  
No gifts, no power, no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ  
His death and resurrection

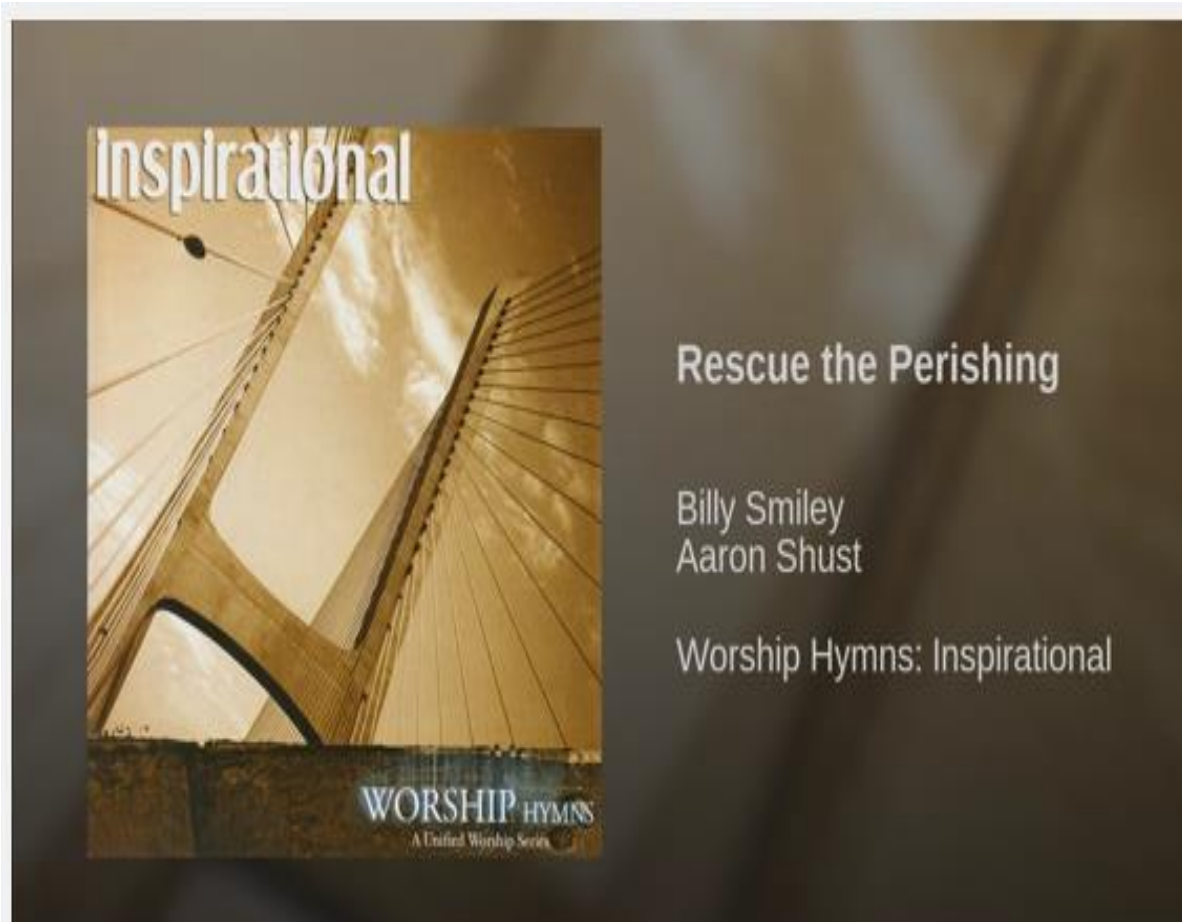
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart  
His wounds have paid my ransom

Why should I gain from His reward  
I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart  
His wounds have paid my ransom

© *Album: Let Your Glory Fall, 2003*

**Appendix 3**

Rescue the Perishing  
Aaron Shust and Billy Smiley  
© *Worship Hymns: Inspirational*



YouTube Video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G\\_Y89l0zqnl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_Y89l0zqnl)

(This link is Subject to Change)

**B**e **F**aithful **I**n **A**ll **T**hings.