



Lights of the First Christmas

Angels & Shepherds:

"Suddenly an angel appeared among them, and the landscape shone bright with the glory of the Lord." LUKE 2:9

Magi & The Star:

"The star appeared to the Magi, standing over Bethlehem." MATTHEW 2:9

The Christ Child:

"To shine on those living in darkness and in death's shadow, to guide our feet into the path of peace." LUKE 1:79 "God said, 'Let there be light!' And light appeared." GENESIS 1:3

"God is light and in Him is no darkness at all." 1 JOHN 1:5

At the fall, sin produced darkness spiritual darkness—so mankind no longer lived in the light of God.

At the incarnation, Christ's birth re-penetrated earth's darkness with light.

"I have come as [that] light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer wander in darkness." JOHN 12:46



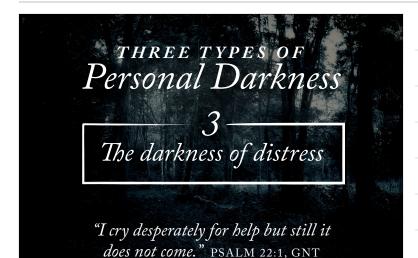
THREE TYPES OF Personal Darkness

The darkness of depression

"Lover, friend, acquaintance—all are gone. There is only darkness everywhere." PSALM 88:18, LB

THREE TYPES OF Personal Darkness The darkness of disappointment

"I hoped for happiness and light, I got trouble and darkness instead." JOB 30:26, LB



"Lord, you are my light; you dispel my darkness." 2 SAMUEL 22:29

Dispelling My Darkness

Jesus changes me when I am depressed.

"It's possible for light to turn the thing it shines upon into light also." EPHESIANS 5:13, JBP

"The light produces in people all that is good and right and true." EPHESIANS 5:9 JBP

Dispelling My Darkness

Jesus encourages me when I am disappointed.

"The Lord is near to those who are discouraged; he sees those who have lost all hope." PSALM 34:18, GNT

Dispelling My Darkness

"The Lord will perfect that which concerns me." PSALM 138:8, NKJV

Dispelling My Darkness

Jesus calms me when I am distressed.

"Even though I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, Lord, for you are with me." PSALM 23:4, GNT

"His name will be called, Immanuel, which means, God with us!" ISAIAH 7:14

Jod Is With Me ISAIAH 9:6

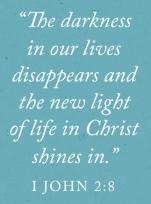
He guides me through distress He is my "Wonderful Counselor!"

He uses my distress for his glory He is my "Mighty Jod!"



He repurposes distress for my good He is my "Everlasting Father!"

He covers my distress in calm He is my "Prince of Peace!"





"Don't be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for everyone. Today in the town of David a Savior is born to you; Christ the Lord." LUKE 2:10-11



The Christmas story is the announcement of Good News, not just great advice.

Advice is counsel about what you must do. News is a report about what has already been done—what God has done for you.

> "Awaken to the Good News and Christ will give you light." EPHESIANS 5:14

