

Assault the Dark

Here we are again. New Year. Pastor gives me this week to preach each year. I appreciate every opportunity because it's my calling and my passion.

Everyone have good holidays? We certainly did. I got a week off. Y'all gave us a week off...I don't know if you know that you did, but you did, so thank you for that! I got to...

Christmas Eve I preached the glowstick service and spent some time sharing from 1 John Chapter 3. This book (1 John) is really speaking to me and examining me in a great way lately...opening my eyes and my ears to see and hear the reality of who God is and how wonderful He is, and challenging me to walk in love with Him. So I've spent some weeks in this book and really love how God is using it.

We're going to share from there again this morning, so turn with me to **1 John 1**.

Read 1:1-4

In this intro, John is laying out his credibility. There's often some question about Jesus' existence, but there is very little if any amongst scholarship who do not believe in the existence of Jesus. Within scholarship, atheists and believers alike agree upon Jesus' existence, but do not agree on His deity. Christians say Jesus is God. Atheists say, good teacher, or moral man, or crazy. Something like that.

But what John is saying here is "we've seen him. We know it to be true. We know him, spent time with him." I like to say, "He knows what he likes for breakfast." They're family right?

And John says, this too can be you. We proclaim this to you. This is the purpose of this family. That you who are outside would be welcomed into the fellowship/familyship of the Father and the Son Jesus Christ.

And he's going to continue, having set that up, by explaining how this works.

Vs 5-7

So he writes this truth, "God is light, and in Him is NO darkness."

Here's what's awesome about Light. Light isn't kind. Light doesn't passively say to darkness, "pardon me..." It shines, and darkness flees. Absolutely impossible for darkness to be in the presence of light. Does that make sense? Darkness only thrives where there is NO light. **When light bursts forth, it ASSAULTS THE DARK.**

John 1:5 says, "The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it." Darkness has NO ability to suppress or hold down the light. *Katalambano=overcome.*

God concedes no ground to the Devil. Jesus has never lost to Satan. He never will lose to Satan. He is God undefeatable. Because **DARKNESS CANNOT CONQUER LIGHT!**

This Undefeated/undefeatable light is within us. The common ground is having fellowship with one another and freedom from ALL sin through Jesus. God (who is light) is within each of us...we are together.

So here's the cool thing (**1 John 2:7-8**). Together more light shines. The Darkness is passing away. The true light is shining. We "walk in the light." More light together, brighter shining. More darkness fleeing. More assault of the dark. We have a responsibility as bearers of the LIGHT (warriors...that's the language that's used throughout the Bible...conquerors...warriors...soldiers in the Lord's Army). **We have a responsibility as bearers of light to assault the dark.**

So how do we Assault the dark?

It's simpler than we think. We just have to be disciplined and love God. No games. It's the same answer I've given each time I've preached. It's the theme of all of Scripture. How do we ASSAULT the dark? **Pursue Jesus Passionately and Make Him Famous.** Brooks, you said that last time. Hey, if you want to walk in the light and do this, that's the answer...

Pursue Jesus Passionately

1) Read your Bible

- a. **Psalm 119:105** "Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a LIGHT to my path."
- b. **Psalm 119:130-131** "The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple. I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments"

- i. We have no light inside of us to begin with. We have darkness. When God authors faith within us (and the Bible says (Heb 12:2) that He does), he moves us from darkness to light. Plants light within us (Holy Spirit).
- ii. That light isn't mustered from within yourself. It is given as a gift of God to be used as a gift FOR GOD. Shine in Darkness. Assault the Dark. Read your Bible. Long for the Truth. Accept, absorb, and apply it. That's one way to pursue Jesus passionately.

2) Prayer

- a. **James 5:16-18** says Prayer has great power. Satan hates prayer because it has great power and because it brings Glory to God. Tap into the source of that light. Pray fervently. Talk to God. Water that relationship. It assaults the dark.

Make Him Famous

1) Let it Shine

- a. **Matthew 5:14-16** - Let His light shine through you. Darkness flees when light is shining. Assault the Dark.
- b. Back to our text in 1 John 2:10 - Love your brother by shining light.

So Assault the Dark...it's passing away. The True Light is shining.

Where in your life do you know there is darkness? Where is there a need for light? In your homes? At your workplace? In your neighborhood? Dare I say, within these walls? The light of Jesus needs to be on it's stand.

Because in the end, when this world is over. When we live forever on the New Earth as the Bible asserts, **Revelation 21:22-25** describes a world with no darkness. Jesus is the light. We get to walk in that light. We get to shine that light. We get to **Assault the Dark.**

2015. It's a new year. It can be a great year. Let's assault the dark. Would you bow your heads with me in prayer?

Let me be clear. There are some in this room that there is darkness in all sorts of areas of your life and no light is shining because you don't have the light of Jesus within you. You are powerless against the dark without Jesus. He alone

is the light. Romans 10 says that if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised Him from the dead for your sins, you will be saved from those sins. You must live for Him from this day forward. That darkness cannot overcome the light. But you need Jesus. Today, ask God to give you faith in Him to love and serve Him from this day forward. This can be the day of your salvation.

For others, God wants you to fight. He wants you to play an active role in this fight this year. God gives up not an INCH to the darkness. Confess and Commit to Pursuing Jesus Passionately and Making Him Famous this year. I'm praying.