

Overcoming our “Dark Side” Eph. 2:1-10

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Sept. 17th

The “Star Wars” saga has broken many records as one of the most popular movie ideas of modern times. It has produced 9 movies over the span of 40 years with three more planned.

One of the reasons for its popularity is because we can all relate to the struggle between the “dark” side of the “force” and the “good”. **Ephesians 2 reminds us that this struggle is universal and gives us hope for overcoming the “Darkness”.**

HOW TO OVERCOME THE DARK SIDE IN EACH OF US:

1. Acknowledge that it exists in each of us! Eph. 2:1-3, Ro. 7:18,19

A. This is not God’s original design! Eccl 7:29; Pr 19:3

1) God made you in His image and purposes! (Rev. 4:11; Jer. 29:11)

2) Sin mars and distorts God’s Image/purposes. Sin (harmartia: offence) comes from harmartano which literally means: “to miss the mark and so not share in the prize!”

2. Recognize its destructive! Sin always produces:

A. Decay (entropy) Gen 6:12 *“God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt”* shāhat’: destroy 99x, corrupt 24x, mar 7x, waste 2x

1) In our Relationships. (James 4:1-3; Is. 59:2)

2) In our Reasoning. Ro. 1:28 *“Even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind”* Adok’imos: worthless, rejected!

B. Destruction! Matthew 7:13-14 *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, (apōleia: ruin) and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leads unto life, and few there be that find it.”*

C. Death! Ro. 6:23 *“The wages of sin is death!”*

James 1:15 *“Sin, when it is finished, brings forth death!”*

Pr. 14:12; 16:25 *“There is a way which seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”*

3. Realize there’s a solution! Ro. 6:23 *“The wages of sin is death, But the gift of God is eternal life Through Jesus Christ our Lord”*

A. Christ (Salvation) is the Solution. Eph. 2:4-6; Col. 1:12-14.

His sacrificial death satisfied God’s Justice. (Ro. 6:23)

1) Salvation must be Personally applied! Eph. 2:8 *“By grace... through faith”*
(Pistis: conviction, reliance upon) (See also Romans 5:1)

But we must “choose” to receive it.

2) Salvation must be Practically applied! V 10 We’re Saved to Serve!
We serve by sharing the light (of the Gospel!) Mt. 5:14; 2 Cor. 4:2-7

Conclusion: Paul, when testifying before King Agrippa revealed that Jesus said:

"I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness of these things which thou hast seen. Delivering thee from the people, and the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Whereupon, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: "

Acts 26:16-19

Application: What is our "heavenly calling?"

Eph 5:8, 14-17 *"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*

Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."

1 Peter 2:9 *"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: "*



Rev. 22:17 *"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come.*

Let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."