

This Present Darkness
#1: It's Dark
September 13, 2026

Introduction: A number of theologians and others through the years have suggested that the Devil's greatest ruse is to induce humans to believe that he does not exist. If this is true, then Satan should be credited with some success in our day, because we seem to have forgotten that our true struggles in this dark world are not against flesh and blood, but against "the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." (Ephesians 6:12 NIV) Since the Bible makes clear that an "adversary" is seeking to thwart God's work and devour God's people, perhaps it is time we recognized "the evil one," stopped giving him so many opportunities, and resisted his deception.

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. *Ephesians 6:12 NIV*

...⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰ so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹² and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:9–14 NIV

⁴ The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God...¹⁴ And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. *2 Corinthians 4:4 & 14 NIV*

I. This Present Darkness

- A. To believe the Bible is to acknowledge the reality of an unseen spiritual realm in which Satan and other spiritual forces of evil are real and active.
- B. Scripture teaches us that God created a human family and a heavenly family.
- C. Members of both God's human and heavenly families rebelled against him.
- D. Those rebellions introduced a real conflict between God's kingdom and the powers of darkness, with humanity—God's image-bearers—at the center.
- E. Because Jesus has rescued us from the dominion of darkness, we need not fear it, but neither can we ignore it.

II. It's Dark

- A. Human sin and depravity are evidence that we live in a dark world.
- B. Human brokenness alone does not account for the darkness Scripture describes; evil spiritual forces are also at work.
- C. The depth of the darkness reveals the magnitude of Christ's rescue.

Conclusion: Jesus has rescued us from darkness' dominion, so we learn to recognize it, resist it, and live as people of light.