



*Luke 17:5 NLT The apostles said to the Lord,  
"Show us HOW TO INCREASE OUR FAITH."*

*Enlarging our ability to confidently trust in God and in His power  
IN Favor Resources video teaching series*

## **#14 HOLDING ON TO OUR FAITH: IN THE NIGHT WATCHES**

### THE NEGATIVE:

In the Bible, "night" generally has a negative, ominous character:

Micah 3:6 Therefore night will come over you, without visions, and darkness, without divination. The sun will set for the prophets, and the day will go dark for them.

It is used as a symbol of the darkness of men's minds, their ignorance and confusion:

John 11:10 It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.

The night was often chosen as a time for military deployment and surprise attacks:

1 Samuel 11:11 The next day Saul separated his men into three divisions; during the last watch of the night they broke into the camp of the Ammonites and slaughtered them until the heat of the day.

Those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.

(And see Exodus 14:24; Joshua 8:3; 9:32-34; 10:9; Isaiah 15:1; Acts 9:24)

... for occult practices:

1 Samuel 28:8 So Saul disguised himself, putting on other clothes, and at night he and two men went to the woman. "Consult a spirit for me," he said, "and bring up for me the one I name."

... and for crimes such as thievery, sexual misdeeds, and murder:

Job 24:14 When daylight is gone, the murderer rises up, kills the poor and needy, and in the night steals forth like a thief. <sup>15</sup> The eye of the adulterer watches for dusk; he thinks, 'No eye will see me,' and he keeps his face concealed. <sup>16</sup> In the dark, thieves break into houses, but by day they shut themselves in; they want nothing to do with the light. <sup>17</sup> For all of them, midnight is their morning; they make friends with the terrors of darkness. (And see Jeremiah 49:9; Genesis 19:1-5, 33-35; Judges 19:25; Proverbs 7:8-10; Nehemiah 6:10; Matthew 24:43)

It was at night that Jesus was betrayed, arrested and tried, abandoned, and denied:

John 13:30 As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

Luke 22:53 Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns. (And see Matthew 26:31, 34; Luke 22:53)

Night is the time of pain and sorrow and suffering for the individual:

Psalms 30:5 For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

Night can be a time of terror:

Psalms 91:5 You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, <sup>6</sup> nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.

Final judgment and everlasting punishment will take place in darkness:

Matthew 8:12 But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (And see 22:13, 25:30; Revelation 8:12)

During sleepless nights we are particularly vulnerable to feelings of dread, worry, and grief:

Job 7:3 so I have been allotted months of futility, and nights of misery have been assigned to me. <sup>4</sup> When I lie down I think, 'How long before I get up?' The night drags on, and I toss and turn until dawn. (And see 4:13-21; Psalms 6:6-7; 102:7; Lamentations 2:19; Daniel 2:1; 6:18)

## THE POSITIVE:

The Bible generally views sleep as necessary and pleasant for humankind:

Jeremiah 31:26 At this I awoke and looked around. My sleep had been pleasant to me.

Ecclesiastes 5:12 The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether they eat little or much ...

Because God does not sleep (Psalm 121:4) and is always watching over his people, those who trust in him may sleep in peace:

Proverbs 3:24 When you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. (And see Psalm 3:5; 4:8)

God is at work in our lives while we sleep:

Proverbs 6:20 My son, keep your father's command and do not forsake your mother's teaching ...<sup>22</sup>

When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. (And see Mark 4:26-29)

The night can be a productive time of personal meditation and spiritual refreshment:

Psalm 119:148 My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promises. (And see 63:6; 77:6; 92:1; 119:55; Joshua 1:8; Job 35:10)

Christ's return will come like a thief in the night:

1 Thessalonians 5:2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. (And see Matthew 24:43; Luke 12:38-39)

The most eloquent description of the age to come is that "there shall be no night there:"

Revelation 22:5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. (And see 21:25)

Zechariah 14:7 It will be a unique day—a day known only to the LORD—with no distinction between day and night. When evening comes, there will be light.

Paul exhorts us to behave like children of the day, not of the night:

1 Thessalonians 5:4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup> You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. <sup>6</sup> So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. (And see Romans 13:12)

God created day and night; both belong to him, and are the same to him:

Psalm 74:16 The day is yours, and yours also the night; you established the sun and moon.

(And see Genesis 1:14-18; Psalm 136:7-9; 139:11-12; Mark 13:24-25; Isaiah 13:10; Joel 3:15)

### ***Pressing In:***

Those who trust in God do not need to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_:

Psalm 91:5 You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,<sup>6</sup> nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. (And see Isaiah 27:3)

Don't \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ what God has shown you in the \_\_\_\_\_.



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