



Touch Stone

"This is what the LORD, your Redeemer,
the Holy One of Israel says:
I am the LORD your God,
who teaches you for [your] benefit,
who leads you in the way you should go."
Isaiah 48:17, HCSB

DAY ONE

A Sighted Guide

Standing in a bookstore one afternoon, I met a gentle man named Rosario. His voice smiled as he introduced himself. His companion placed my hand on Rosario's hand as he spoke. Rosario, you see, is blind like me. We bridged the gap of sight with touch and spoke as old friends who had just met. We never pulled our hands away but would sometimes shake them or grip a little tighter. During tender conversation, I placed my remaining hand on our grip. But until our conversation ended, touch lingered and reassured each of us that the other was still there.

Touch reassures us we are not alone in the darkness. Touch grounds and guides us. We are all in darkness at some time. We need God's touch to orient, reassure, and guide us.

Read Ephesians 5:8. What does the verse say about you and the darkness?

☐ I was the darkness. ☐ The darkness surrounded me. ☐ Darkness blinded me.

Jesus is the light. Without Him, we're not just in darkness, we are darkness.

Clichés say a lot about darkness. Explain what each of the following means:

The blind leading the blind _____

A shot in the dark _____

Love is blind _____

I'm in the dark about that _____

You've just written a good definition of darkness. Darkness involves ignorance, aimlessness, lack of understanding and direction, and foolishness.

According to John 11:10; 12:35; Romans 1:21; and Ephesians 4:18, what characterizes the life of a person in darkness?

What is the only remedy for such darkness? Is it philosophy, psychology, or enlightenment? Is it therapy, education, or self-actualization? No. Simply put, the only remedy for darkness is light! Just as human touch guides me in my physical darkness, God's touch guides me out of my spiritual darkness. His touch isn't skin on skin. No, His touch is light.

What does each of these clichés about light mean?

Shed some light _____

The light of day _____

In the light _____

The light came on _____

Compare the definitions you wrote by the darkness clichés to those you listed about light. Light brings understanding, illumination, revelation, and even warmth.

God's light brings the same to us. Let's examine many facets of God's guiding light. Describe how these verses characterize light:

Psalms 27:1 _____

Psalms 119:105 _____

John 8:12 _____

2 Corinthians 4:6 _____

1 John 1:7 _____

When as a 15-year-old girl my world became dark, I had to find a way to navigate. I relied heavily on my dad's guiding touch. He made me feel most secure. His hand was always steady, his touch gentle, and he always pointed me in the right direction.

Our Father God does the same for us. His Word points us in the right direction. Walking in His light keeps us in step with each other. You see, "You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light" (Eph. 5:8). God's light was the touch you received to guide you out of your darkness. Yet as children of light, our path can still become dark at times. Confusion, stress, tragedy, and even mediocrity are all difficult shadows to navigate without a guiding light.

Ask God to quicken your mind to recognize His light. Journal how God's truth, gospel, and salvation have guided you. Record in your journal this week the times you clearly notice the invisible hand of God guiding you as He floods light into your darkness.

DAY TWO

A Perplexed Prophet

We've seen we all were at one time in darkness and God's touch rescued us. We acknowledged that even as children of light we experience darkness and its disorientation. Believe me, my life is a walking illustration! Open the car door and let me out most anywhere, and you will have one disoriented lady. Without physical sight or someone to guide me, I would have no idea which way to turn. There's nothing amazing about that. It's what you would expect. What's amazing to me is how we usher in our own disorienting darkness when we're disobedient to the Lord or when we reject His counsel and guidance. The confusion rolls in like fog off the bay, and the darkness is profound.

I can't think of a better example than a prophet named Jonah. By deliberately turning his back on God, he ran into a darkness beyond what most of us could even imagine. This is not just a fish story—it describes you and me and how God pulls us from the darkness that swallows us and guides us back to the path of His purpose.

By examining Jonah's story and your story as told in God's Word, we'll begin to see how God's touch guides us.