

WALKING IN THE LIGHT

Gen.1:4 "God saw that the light was good, and He separated the light from the darkness."

Recently, my daughter and I were talking about (what else?) my grandchildren. They are very careful about what the girls watch on t.v., movies, and what books are read to them. I was telling her that the girls had brought me the book "Rumpelstiltskin" and that I had hesitated to read it. Many of what we know as "fairy tales" have some pretty scary places in them: witches, trolls, ogres, poison apples, etc. She said that they had the book "Snow White" but had not read it to the girls because of things in it that could give them nightmares. One day, though, Kinsley (just turned 3) brought the book to her mom and said, "Mommy, I am going to show you the scawy parts in this book." (That's right. I said scawy.) She had not read the book but she went through the book page by page pointing to things on each page that she considered "scawy". "This is scawy." (turn the page) "This is scawy." (turn the page) You get the idea. Now, the 7 dwarves aren't the prettiest characters in that story but when she came to the page they were on she pointed to each one of them and said, "Happy, happy, happy....." It wasn't even so much what the characters looked like but the feeling she had looking at them. She correctly identified the "scawy" from the happy and even called some of them "bad". She didn't need to experience the "scawy" parts in order to identify them.

"Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them." Eph.5:11

In the same way, we don't have to experience evil in order to distinguish it from good. The more we know the truth of God, the easier it is to know when a lie is told. We don't have to be a liar to know one. We don't have to be a bank robber to know that "unauthorized withdrawals" are wrong. In order to identify counterfeit money, the United States Secret Service handles thousands and thousands of real bills. They know the feel and the texture of real money and that helps them identify the fake money. They know instantly when a counterfeit bill goes through their hands. We do that with God's word. We "do our best to present ourselves to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." II Tim. 2:15 We will not know the lies, the evil, the sin we can so easily fall into, unless we know the truth. Being "saved" isn't enough; it isn't the "end all" but just the beginning of a lifelong journey of discovery and adventure, not to mention growing in maturity. My daughter and son-in-law don't tell the girls, "Oh, don't be afraid of that. It won't hurt you." They protect and nurture their

children and allow them to grow up slowly. There may come a day when "Snow White and the Seven Dwarves" won't be "scawy" any more and that will be fine. Kinsley will be able to understand the concept of a "fairy tale". She will be able to separate truth from lies. That's what God wants for us: He wants us to continue to mature in His ways, knowing the truth, and being able to separate the light from the darkness, good from evil, and to run as fast as we can from the "sin that so easily entangles" (Heb.12:1).

God gives us everything we need to be successful in our maturing process: His word and His presence through His Spirit. We have everything we need to identify (without being involved) the "scawy" things of this world and be protected from them. We can know the darkness from the light. **II Samuel 22: 17** "He reached down from on high and took hold of me; He drew me out of deep waters. (vs. 20) He brought me out into a spacious place; He rescued me because He delighted in me." (vs. 23) "All His laws are before me; I have not turned away from His decrees." (vs.29) "You are my lamp, O Lord; the Lord turns my darkness into light." (vs.31) **As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the Lord is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in Him."**

Have a week filled with light!
Georgia