

# Out of the Darkness

by Denise Shick



**Darkness is heavy.** As the director of a nonprofit organization that serves people in pain, I feel that weight as I listen to the stories of those who come for counseling. This is what they tell me:

Evy was advised not to tell anyone of her rape. Because of this, she believed something was wrong with her, and that the rape was her fault because she was a girl.

Johnathon's mom took him to her hair salon where he was surrounded by girls all day. He felt disconnected from his dad's world. Then grandma put him in a dress and said how pretty he was. Johnathon began to believe he was meant to be a girl since he had seen so little of dad's world. He thought he was different.

Stephen's mom was emotionally abusive. When he was young, she told him she thought about aborting him. Her emotional abuse continued for most of his childhood and adolescence. He believed he was unwanted. He was convinced he was a mistake.

Jan found a community within the gaming environment. She was drawn into playing by making herself a male character. Before long, she became obsessive over the false belief that she was male and soon fell into the lie hook, line, and sinker.

Terri's parents split during her pre-teen years. Her dad left her mom for another woman. Terri began to believe the lie that girls or women are not valued.

The darkness of our culture and its lies seems to deepen every day. In families, schools, and even churches, children are told that gender is assigned at birth, that gender is fluid, that they can choose to be a boy or girl or nonbinary. Our culture glorifies these lies by celebrating biological men who win women's sporting events and by awarding transgender men honors formerly reserved for biological women. Our media outlets champion these deceptions by incorporating LGBT characters into most TV shows, movies, and commercials. They cry "homophobe" and "bigot" if anyone dares to say the obvious: "These individuals are pre-

tending to be the opposite sex. They cannot become the opposite sex."

We shake our heads and wonder how our culture could have become so mired in this dark world of deceit, lies, and perversity. But the New Testament writers described these dark days over two thousand years ago. In his second letter to young Pastor Timothy, the apostle Paul writes:

*But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible [people] loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth (2 Timothy 3:1-17NKJV).*

The conflict is not simply an ideological war; it is a war between heaven and hell, between God and Satan. The spiral downward into sin's darkness begins with those who are "lovers of themselves." Nothing matters more in our selfie-culture than self: I decide what is true, I decide whether I'm male, female, or neither. I am my own God. This mindset leads to a lack of self-control and to behavior that exalts pleasure over every common-sense practice. That's why some pre-schools host drag queen shows and some parents mutilate their children by allowing sex-reassignments surgeries. Deceived and deluded, they are "led away by various lusts" and exploit others to satisfy their desires. And Satan, our immortal Enemy, celebrates.

But how do Christians get ensnared in these lies? In his first letter to Timothy, Paul says, "*Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared*" (1 Timothy 4:1-2 ESV). When we ignore the truth given in the Word of God, we are vulnerable to "deceitful spirits and teachings of demons."

## Upcoming Meetings

# BIBLE STUDY



**Date:** Tuesdays  
**Time:** 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM  
**Place:** 4539 Deeboyar Ave,  
Lakewood, CA  
**Subject:** Book of Proverbs

Come and join us for this fun, informative, and heart-changing study in this Old Testament book of God's wisdom. In this study we will cover things such as: gaining wisdom, different types of wisdom, the language of Proverbs, types of authority, the fear of the LORD and much, much more. Please come join us.

NOTE: No childcare is available



## RDM Weekly Prayer Meeting

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (Please arrive on time)  
**Place:** 4539 Deeboyar Avenue, Lakewood, CA  
**Emphasis:** Prayer for the nation and the Body of Christ.

**1 Timothy 2:2; Matthew 9:38; Mark 11:24, Ephesians 1:17-23**