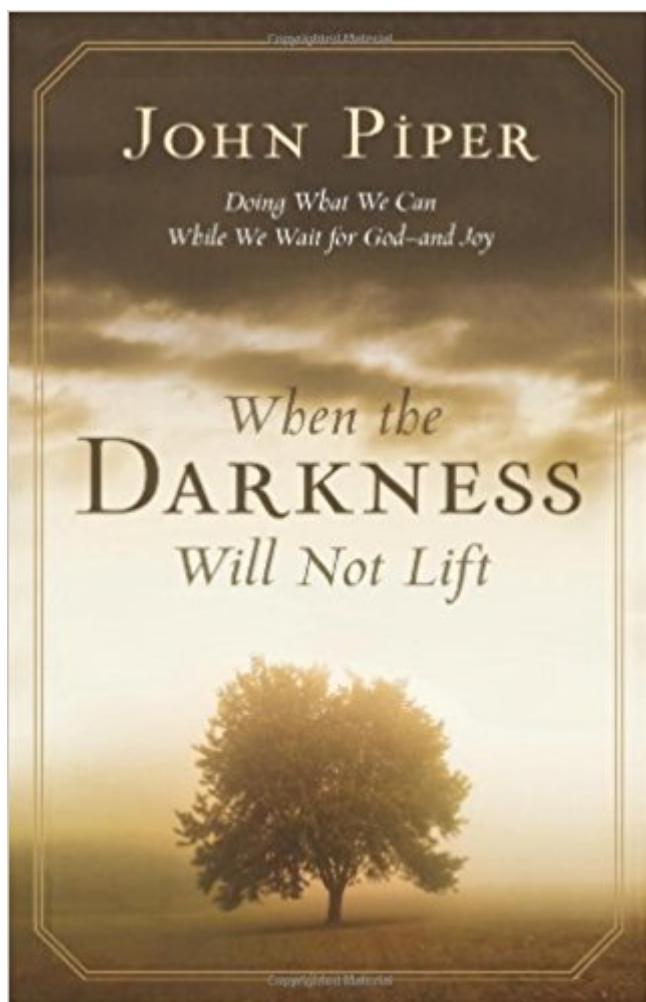


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# When The Darkness Will Not Lift: Doing What We Can While We Wait For God--and Joy



## Synopsis

"It is utterly crucial that in our darkness we affirm the wise, strong hand of God to hold us, even when we have no strength to hold him." John Piper Even the most faithful, focused Christians can encounter periods of depression and spiritual darkness when joy seems to stay just out of reach. It can happen because of sin, satanic assault, distressing circumstances, or hereditary and other physical causes. In *When the Darkness Will Not Lift*, John Piper aims to give some comfort and guidance to those experiencing spiritual darkness. Readers will gain insight into the physical side of depression and spiritual darkness, what it means to wait on the Lord in a time of darkness, how unconfessed sin can clog our joy, and how to minister to others who are living without light. Piper uses real-life examples and sensitive narrative to show readers abundant reason to hope that God will pull them out of the pit of despair and into the light once again.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

John Piper (DTheol, University of Munich) is the founder and teacher of [desiringGod.org](http://desiringGod.org) and the chancellor of Bethlehem College & Seminary. He served for 33 years as the senior pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and is the author of more than 50 books, including *Desiring God*; *Don't Waste Your Life*; *This Momentary Marriage*; *A Peculiar Glory*; and *Reading the Bible Supernaturally*.

It has always seemed to me that John Piper, in many regards, understands depression or melancholy better than many pastors do. Perhaps it is because he has admitted his own tendencies

to struggle through some dark nights. When the Darkness Will Not Lift (2006), a short, 79-page book that was originally appended to another book When I don't Desire God was a treatment he gave to the issue of melancholy. In classic style, Piper harkens back to those who have gone before him, particularly the Puritans, in understanding depression. In particular, he brings up the wise writings of Richard Baxter, John Bunyan, and John Newton, to name a few. Piper recognizes that older writers often have much to say about the Christian life. Piper has a particular way of knitting theology to life. He applies his understanding of the nature and character of God to the human condition. While this is a strength, I fear that many people, particularly in the throes of depression, may miss the application of theology to their daily life. Having said that, my desire is that more people would understand the importance of our thinking about God and how it can have a profound impact on how we live, even in the midst of darkness.

Piper does his best with gracious words to comfort those who go through dark times of the soul. He nails several causes and as a person who has struggled in this regard it seems at times in this book like he based it on talks with me. This is comforting to know that I am not alone. Still, as he admits in the book, it is very hard if not impossible to convince a person who struggles with assurance of God's love that he has it.

This book is a good starting place for those who want to learn the biblical stance on depression and what the church fathers have taught. I think Piper's emphasis on confession and obedience may be a little heavy for those currently struggling with depression, but, overall, the book is very helpful.

I am a doctor and have given this book to many patients with depression. Each has stated this book helps. I also suffer from depression and it is hard to find books about depression written from a Christian view who truly understand how difficult depression makes life.

The darkness still hasn't lifted but I no longer feel alone and hopeless.

John Piper breaks down the Gospel in the most crystal clear way, making room for understanding and footing on the rock-solid truth of what Jesus has done, and the transaction that has occurred the moment of salvation. This entire book points to Jesus, directing us to the Scriptures and proceeding in the darkness in a very active way on our part. Piper draws from several books that I actually intend on buying and reading through. This book contains a very articulate flow of biblical truth. Piper

has learned in experience with the Lord and ministry, and books. It's only about 75 pages. Not a very big book at all, But it is packed with extremely beneficial directions, and truths. Well worth the money and read.

Wow it really reminded me that this season I'm in is a moments passing. I've been condemned by family Christians and reading that God does love the forsaken and the misunderstood and he isn't through loving me. Useless. And yet not. He does care abt me. Though tried and condemned by His people no less. I realise that the accusations had no basis. It isn't one two three strikes ur out. I'm. Not a burden to Jesus. Or to the Holy Spirit write a poem again

I suffer greatly with depression and have for the majority of my life. This book answered so many questioned I have asked myself as a Christian, it reaffirmed much of what God has shown me about depression, but mostly it gave me hope! Anyone suffering with depression or anyone who loves someone suffering with depression needs to read this book! It will be one I refer to often for encouragement. I plan to read his larger book from which this smaller one was taken. Sharon

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