

John 8:12

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Shadow puppets. You know, when you put your hand in front of a light, and conform it to cast shadows of different characters on the wall, be it a dog, or a rabbit, or a duck.

In today's verse, Jesus tells us that He is the light of the world. We know that it takes light in order to cast shadows. We also know that light is what guides us in the darkness so that we do not stumble and fall. Yet there are those who are walking in the light of Jesus, yet they still see the obstacles (sin) in their path and they choose to go after them, and end up falling anyway.

So, if it were night time and you were walking along a path in the mountains, with a light shining your way, and you saw a snake or a mountain lion, would you go after them or would you go around them, trying to stay as far away from them as you could?

Hopefully you would flee from them. Even the bible tells us to do that.

† **James 4:7** *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

We are all familiar with this verse and we try and practice the second half of it that says to "**Resist the devil**" But you need to read the verse in its entirety, which says that not only are we to "**Resist the devil**" but even more important we are to "**submit to God**". Notice also it says to "**submit to God**" then you can "**Resist the devil**". Why is submitting to God so important? Because if you don't "**submit to God**" you will end up submitting to someone or something else.

Yet you may say, "not if I "**Resist the devil**", which sounds good. But if you are resisting the devil and not submitting to God, then what or who are you going to submit to? The answer would be your flesh, and the things you want, which in reality would be the things that the devil wants you to do. So are you then really resisting the devil, or are you allowing him to throw shadow puppets on the wall that you run after, instead of running to the light, which is Jesus Christ?

So, how do you know if you are following the light, or the shadow puppets? If you put up the things in your life against His light (The light of Jesus Christ), what shadows are you casting? Good or bad things? The answer would tell you which you are following.

† **Ephesians 5:11-12** *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.*

† **Luke 1:78-79 (MSG)** *Through the heartfelt mercies of our God, God's Sunrise will break in upon us, Shining on those in the darkness, those sitting in the shadow of death, Then showing us the way, one foot at a time, down the path of peace.*