

John 11:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.

Analysis

The contrast between day and night walking continues the metaphor. Night represents walking outside God's will or living in spiritual darkness. Without 'the light of this world' (Christ Himself, 8:12), one stumbles morally and spiritually. The physical imagery points to spiritual truth: those who reject Christ walk in darkness regardless of physical circumstances. This anticipates the disciples' later failure when they fled in Christ's arrest—walking in fear's darkness rather than faith's light.

Historical Context

Night travel was dangerous in first-century Palestine due to rough terrain, bandits, and wild animals. Lamps provided insufficient light for safe travel, making the metaphor immediately understandable.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. In what areas of life are you tempted to 'walk in night' outside God's will?

2. How does remaining in Christ as our light prevent moral and spiritual stumbling?
3. What does this teach about the relationship between obedience and spiritual illumination?

Interlinear Text

ἐὰν	δέ	τις	περιπατῇ	ἐν	τῇ	νυκτί	προσκόπτει	ὅτι
if	But	a man	walk	in	^{G3588}	the night	he stumbleth	because
G1437	G1161	G5100	G4043	G1722		G3571	G4350	G3754
τὸ	φῶς	οὐκ	ἔστιν	ἐν	αὐτῷ			
^{G3588}	light	no	there is	in	him			
	G5457	G3756	G2076	G1722	G846			

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 13:16 (Light): Give glory to the LORD your God, before he cause darkness, and before your feet stumble upon the dark mountains, and, while ye look for light, he turn it into the shadow of death, and make it gross darkness.

Jeremiah 20:11 (Parallel theme): But the LORD is with me as a mighty terrible one: therefore my persecutors shall stumble, and they shall not prevail: they shall be greatly ashamed; for they shall not prosper: their everlasting confusion shall never be forgotten.