

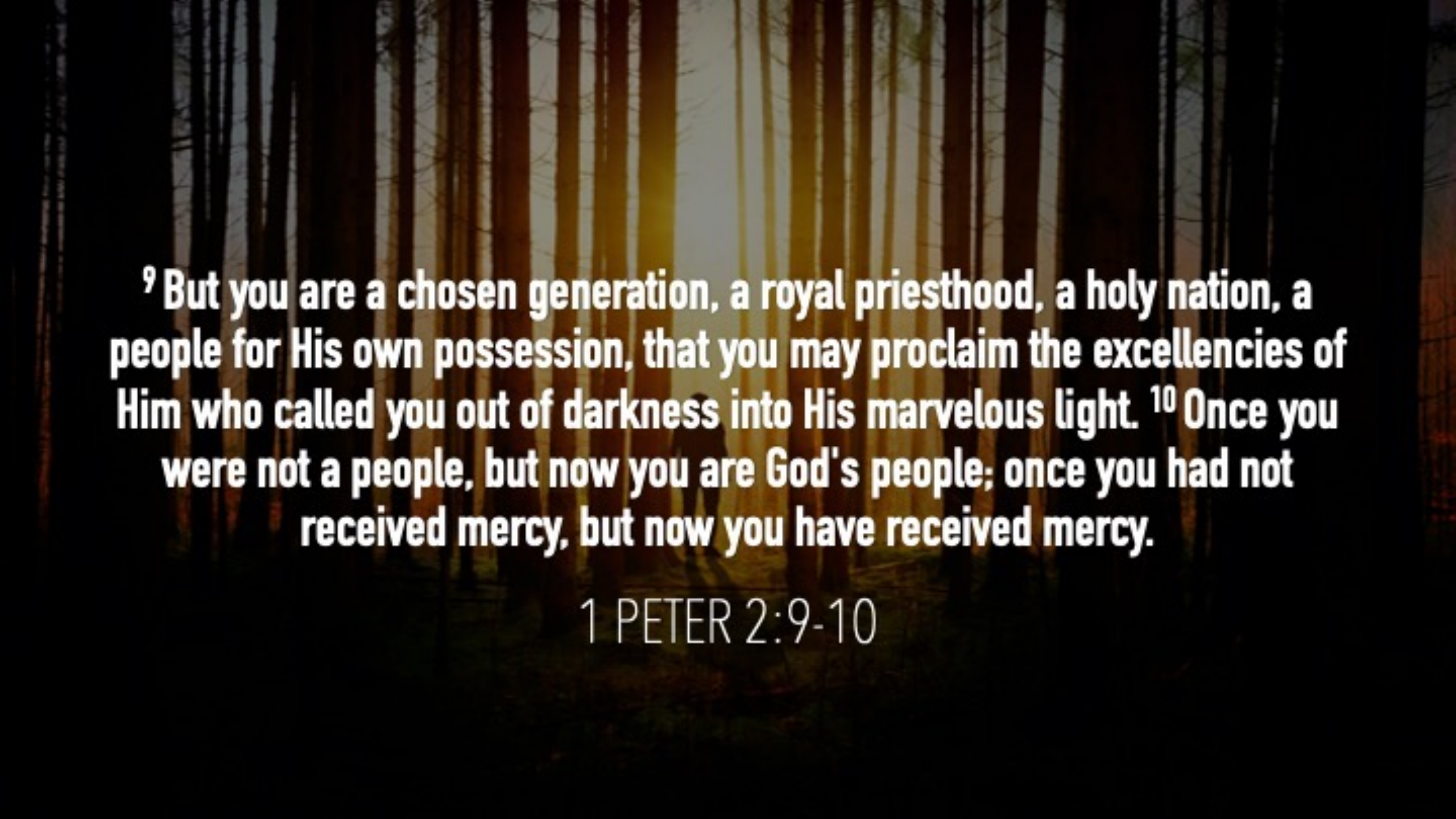
A person is walking away from the viewer down a path in a forest. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and long, golden light rays that filter through the tall, thin trees. The scene is peaceful and evokes a sense of being in nature.

# LIVING IN THE LIGHT

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1 PETER 2:9-10

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**<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.**

1 PETER 2:9-10





THERE IS NO LIGHT WITHOUT JESUS

EPHESIANS 4:17ff

## EXTINGUISHING DARKNESS

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- **Jesus alone can extinguish the darkness in our lives (John 8:12, Col. 1:12-13). Stop tricking yourself into thinking that you are smarter or more enlightened than you actually are. He who does not know Jesus, does not know the light (Rom. 1:21, John 12:46)!**
- **This fact naturally leads us to the practical application: How do I live in the light with Jesus? What does this life look like? And how do I make changes that stick?**



## LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

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- **1 John 1:5-10** – Be honest about sin, stop making excuses for it, and resolve to do better.
- **Ephesians 5:7-14** – Make meaningful changes. Or do you love the darkness too much (John 3:19-20)?
- **Nicodemus/Blind man** – Illumination is often a process, like the sunrise. Don't undervalue how far you've come.
- **Matthew 5:14-16** – Live unashamed. Act like you are the light of the world. Don't let those in darkness dictate the terms of your existence.

A photograph of a person walking away from the viewer down a path in a forest. The person is silhouetted against a bright, golden light that filters through the trees in the distance, creating a strong contrast between the dark foreground and the bright background. The trees are tall and thin, forming a vertical pattern that frames the path.

**DARKNESS DOES NOT HAVE TO BE ETERNAL**

2 PETER 2:4,17, JUDE 6,13, REVELATION 21:22-22:5





A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE...

## LOVING THE LIGHT

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- **John 3:19-20**
- **Often, the thing that makes the biggest difference is our attitude or perspective on the light. Those who love darkness view the light as intrusive, judgmental, uncompromising, etc. They spurn the light because of the accountability and transparency it brings.**
- **We must be people who LOVE the light, and not the deeds of darkness (Ephesians 5:11). We must savor the fruit of the spirit and not the temptations of the flesh. We can show this fundamental attitude shift in a few ways...**



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- **YOUR LANGUAGE ABOUT THE CHURCH** — Are you pessimistic? Hyper-critical? Fixated on failure? Or do you love the church, as the Bride of Christ, the Pillar of Truth, the Body of Christ? Your kids are listening!
  - **YOUR LANGUAGE ABOUT SIN** — “I wish I could, but I’m married. Sorry”, being envious of the fun/glamor of the sinner, always balking about the things we CAN’T DO.
  - **FOCUSING ON LONG-TERM OUTCOMES** — 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Galatians 6:7-10, Ephesians 3:8-13. Remember that a life bathed in God’s light is a foretaste of our heavenly reward, which is frequently framed in such terms (Revelation 21:22-27, 22:5).