

“The Bottom”

by
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- What** The bottom is a dark place full of despair and self-doubt. It is important to remember that God is there with us and that He meets us with love.
- Themes: God’s love, Despair, Depression, Worthiness, Hope, Peace
- Who** Person- male or female
Light- male
- When** Present
- Costumes and Props** Stage is dark. Person is dressed all in black and seated in a chair center stage. Light shines and speaks from offstage.
- Why** Matthew 28:20; Romans 8:38-39
- How** This works best if you can get your space as dark as possible. If not, then make sure the light is bright enough to reflect off Person’s face. It is important that Light’s voice be strong and loud and words are spoken slowly and deliberately with love. This is a very sensitive topic. The overall feeling should be one of great tenderness. This can be presented live or online.
- Time** Approximately 3 minutes

Person is seated center stage. A spotlight is shining on them from their left. Person is holding both sides of the chair as if they are afraid to move. They look around as if confused.

Person: Where am I?

Light: You've just hit bottom.

Person: *(leans over to look down at the floor)* Hit bottom? *(sits back up facing audience)* So, I finally let go.

Light: Well, not completely. But that's the plan.

Person: *(turns to face Light)* Whose plan?

Light: Mine.

Person: Who are you?

Light: I am Light.

Person: *(cynically)* If you are *(air quotes)* "light," then *(voice rising into a frustrated shout)* WHY IS IT SO DARK IN HERE?

Light: Because there is nothing here for me to shine on but you. Right now...we don't need anything else.

Person: *(stands and points at the Light...agitated)* Maybe YOU don't need anything else, but I sure could use a drink.

Light: No, you might WANT one, but you definitely can't USE one. A drink won't get you out of here.

Person: *(steps out to edge of stage and looks out into congregation)* Well then, I could use a friend.

Light: I know. That's why I am here.

Person: *(walks back to chair and sits facing light; shoulders back, feet apart)* Here? Where is here?

Light: Like I said before, you have found the bottom.

Person: I don't like it here.

Light: No one does.

Person: Then, do I have to stay?

Light: It's totally your choice.

Person: Well if that's the case... *(gets up to leave and takes two steps away into the shadows)*

Light: *(command)* Wait. Before you go...don't you want to know **why** you are here?

Person: *(turns and faces light)* Nope. I already know. I'm here because I just keep screwing things up. I don't deserve any joy.

Light: That is a lie. You were made for joy. And there's a lot that I can do for you in this place...in this moment, that I can't do anywhere else. So...you should know before you go...if you leave now, it is very possible that you will end up here again.

Person: *(returns to chair-sits and slumps)* You're saying that I'll just mess up again?

Light: I'm saying I love you and I want you free from everything that is pulling you down. No matter what you choose to do, I won't ever leave you. I am always with you. I always have been.

Person: *(angry, leans forward towards light)* Well, I sure can't feel you.

Light: What DO you feel?

Person: *(sits back, long pause)* Out of control.

Light: The control you think you have is an illusion. You've never had it.

Person: Does that mean I will never have control of my life?

Light: I'm saying that control is not the point for you. It's not the point for anyone.

Person: *(gestures towards Light)* Not a single human has control!

Light: That's what I am saying.

Person: *(stands facing light)* Then what's the point?

Light: The point of what?

Person: *(turns a quarter turn-away from light as if to leave, then turns head to address light)* The point of going on? Of living?

Light: The point is that control is the wrong goal.

Person: Then why does everyone want it?

Light: I believe that you think control means you won't have any pain...that you will be able to protect the ones you love. I think you all mistake control for peace.

Person: *(walks two paces away from light, stares into darkness)* I don't believe that peace exists.

Light: How are you feeling right now?

Person: *(slumps, sighs sadly)* Tired.

Light: I know. It's why I have been so burdened for you. Anything else?

Person: *(turns back to Light)* Well, it's really quiet here in this place you call the bottom.

Light: Why?

Person: Well, for one thing, there's nothing here but me.

Light: And me. I'm here, too.

Person: *(puts hands up to shade eyes, takes a step towards light)* I can't...see you.

Light: What you need right now, is to **hear** me. And, because it is just you and me...your ideas about control can't find you.

Person: Can anything else, or anyone else find me here?

Light: The most important thing for you to know is that **I** have found you. I have **always** found you. I **will** always find you.

Person: *(steps back to chair and sits facing Light)* So... what do I do, now?

Light: You stay with me. Here. And then, when you are ready...you let go.

Person: Let go? What do I let go of?

Light: You let go of the lies that make you want control. The lie that you have been forgotten. The lie that you don't matter. The lie that you will never be good enough to be loved. You let me give you the truth about yourself. That even though you are imperfect. Even though you struggle. Even though you screw up. Even though you make mistakes...the truth is you are made in the image of God...your Creator...who certainly is enough. You are worthy of love.

Person: I don't know how to let go of the lies.

Light: You start with a word.

Person: What word?

Light: Help...scream it, or think it, or whisper it, or just allow yourself to feel it.

Person: Do I need to be specific about what I want help with?

Light: You can be. There is nothing I haven't heard before. Just ask. Then...

Person: What?

Light: Let go of your expectations of what my help will look like. Try to lean on me and trust me. I **will** send comfort. I **will** send peace. But you can only receive it if you let go of your understanding about this life... and lean on mine. Are you ready?

Person: *(tentatively) Maybe. (Long pause...takes deep breath... then whispers)*
Help?

Lights out.