

## Stick to the Truth during Adversity

One of the biggest temptations we face when we get a disappointment, a loss or tragedy is to begin to question the goodness, the integrity of God, and His Word. We think that because God is God, no bad thing can happen. The worst thing of all is to try to interpret the Word of God based on our circumstances and change what is the foundational truth because we have experienced a tragedy we do not understand.

*According to John 16:33 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." The Word of God on many occasions makes it clear that tribulation will come. In simple terms, bad things will happen, and persecutions will come. 2 Timothy 3:12 "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."*

Persecutions, bad things, and tragedies will come in this life. We live in a fallen world. This is not heaven and things are not perfect and they will never be.

When tragedies come, they tend to destroy many people's faith. Why? One of the reasons is that many believers have not grown a root system that fully depends on and is built on God's Word. When tragedy comes, they fall apart, and many are tempted to curse God like Job's wife advised Him to do (Job 2:9).

Some people depart from the truth because they have experienced bad things. This is a sad state to be in. You don't want to lose faith in the very thing (God's Word) that will pull you through lest you sink. The truth is we will all experience some bad things in this life, but if we all depart from the faith and the Word because of our experiences, then most probably we weren't grounded and rooted in God's Word. No one would remain born again because we all experience and will experience hardships at some point.

Are you going to let a broken marriage, death in the family, loss of a job decide or dictate your relationship with God? If yes, then anything will. What are you going to do should all these negatives happen? What have you made up your mind to do?

## A. Prepare your heart to seek the Lord

If you are going to endure difficult times and not budge, you will have to start **preparing your heart** to seek the Lord. This is key to strength and stability even in the midst of extremely bad times.

Daniel's reaction is one of the best I can sight. The king had made a decree that if any man prayed to any other God besides him, that man was going to be thrown in the den of lions. Daniel was not fazed by that decree. He went home and prayed as he had done regularly. This could only have been possible because he was a guy who sought the Lord on a daily basis. His heart was prepared to seek the Lord. When dangerous times arose that could have cost his life, he did not panic (Daniel 6). This is true also for Meshack, Shadrack, and Abednego (Daniel 3).

2 Chronicles 12:14 *"And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD." "...he forsook the law of the LORD, and all Israel with him." This is referring to King Rehoboam the son of King Solomon (2 Chronicles 12:1).*

a) **"Prepared"** The word "prepared" here in this verse is a Hebrew: "Koon" which means **"To be erect, to set up, to fix, apply, establish"** (Strong's Concordance).

i) Psalms 57:7 *"My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise."*

b) **Heart.**

i) Our hearts do not seek the Lord by themselves or by default. To the contrary, they tend towards evil or ungodliness. The process of preparing our hearts to seek the Lord is very deliberate.

ii) Our hearts don't just get to know and seek the Lord by themselves. This doesn't happen naturally without any effort on our part. We must take the initiative and put in the effort to seek the Lord. One of the main things I love about King Jehoshaphat is that he was a man who prepared his heart to

seek the Lord (2 Chronicles 19:3). It takes a lot of effort and dedication to seek the Lord. Looking at the leadership of King Rehoboam, we see the very opposite of Jehoshaphat. **Rehoboam did not prepare his heart to seek the Lord, and therefore he did evil** (2 Chronicles 12:14).

- iii) What we do when there is no pressure or no crisis determines what we will do when pressure and crisis hits. If you want to only visit faith in times of trouble, you will not get the same results as those who live by faith (Habakkuk 2:4).
- iv) One of the primary ways we prepare our hearts is through the Word of God. Continuing in the Word of God will produce strength and stability. John 8:31-32 *“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*

#### c) Seek the Lord.

- i) Most people will seek the Lord in times of trouble but very few do so on a **daily basis**. We have to seek the Lord on a daily basis thereby **sensitizing our hearts towards the Lord**.
- ii) Seek the Lord on a daily basis
- iii) It will Sensitize our hearts towards the Lord
- iv) We must seek the Lord ahead of time so that when a challenging and tempting opportunity arises, we do not panic, making a wrong decision in the heat of the moment. We have to learn to make pre-decisions or predetermine our responses. However, this is only possible if we seek the Lord betimes by preparing our hearts.

#### B. Do not blame God for it. God is a good God.

Genesis Chapter one is where the whole movie starts. We see who the good guy is and the bad guy. God, the good guy created everything beautiful and good. He never created anything bad or evil. Satan was the author of evil and sin (Ezekiel 28:15), not God. God never created it. It is and was against His nature. Because He is good, He created good. The fruit of a good

tree is good. You need to be **fully persuaded of the goodness of God** or else what you truly believe will be revealed when tragedy and bad times happen. **No one and no situation should ever cause or make you change your mind on this fundamental truth.**

a) John 10:10 *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."*

i) If we are going to blame someone, we have to blame the one responsible. Blaming God is not the right thing to do. This verse makes it clear that it is Satan that comes to steal, kill, and, destroy. God came to give us life not to take it. You cannot give life by taking it!

b) James 1:16-17 *"Do not err, my beloved brethren. [17] Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."*

i) This passage of scripture makes it clear that good gifts and every perfect gift come from above (from God)—not every bad gift and imperfect gift.

c) Luke 9:54-56 *"And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? [55] But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. [56] For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village."*

i) Jesus' response to the disciples who wanted to destroy lives speaks volumes of His nature and goodness. He did not come to destroy lives but to save them.

ii) **God is a good God and that is His nature.**

### C. Don't change what you believe based on bad experiences.

a) Be constant, even in the midst of tragedy. Sad to say, many believers have allowed their bad experiences to destroy their faith. They believe that God is responsible for all those things, yet God had no part in it. The antidote to that is a relationship with God's Word. It is continuing in the Word daily. Renewing our soulish minds through the

Word of God, forming our philosophy, beliefs, values, opinions, and outlook on life-based on the Word of God and good interpretation of it.

- b) We should never allow our circumstances to shape our beliefs, but rather only the Word of God. Circumstances are always changing yet God's Word does not. God's Word is fixed and unchanging. It is inerrant, accurate, powerful, incorruptible, authentic, alive, and sharper than a two-edged sword. It will never pass away for it abides and endures forever (Psalm 19:7-9; 1 Peter 1:23-25; Hebrews 4:12). God's Word has the ability to turn around any situation we encounter. We should never go against it or believe otherwise
- c) Unfortunately, some have gone on to interpret the Word of God based on their circumstances or experiences and this has brought tremendous error and a departure from the faith.
  - i) **The foundation or basis for the interpretation of God's Word should never be our experiences or results, but the Word of God itself.** It doesn't matter if things go our way or not, we ought rather believe the Word of God.
  - ii) If our circumstances say anything contrary to the Word, we should always side with the Word of God, not our circumstances.
  - iii) We need to believe the Word of God. Whether we understand or not, God Word is always true and right. We have to come to that conclusion right now.
  - iv) *Act 5:29 "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men." Romans 3:4 says, "...Let God be true and every man a liar..." Let God be true and every situation and circumstances a liar.*
- d) For some people, if some got healed today, they would believe that it is God's Will to heal, but if they saw someone not get healed in a month or so, they would turn around and begin to doubt the Word of God. They would trash what the Word of God says and instead go with their experience as truth. This is what the Word of God calls walking by sight. Some would change their beliefs based on that bad result.
  - i) But what does the Word say? It is God's will to heal all people, all the time. That should be the basis of our beliefs whether we see positive results or not.

- ii) There is oxygen where you are. This is the truth. Whether you believe it or not, it does not matter nor change the absolute truth. If you died for a lack of oxygen, it doesn't mean that there is not oxygen where you are. It could be other factors that caused the death. Changing what you believe would be ridiculous because the truth remains the truth.

#### D. We know in part and the secret things belong unto the Lord our God

Although I believe it is okay to ask questions, we have to be careful not to ask the questions of unbelief. For instance, the question that Mary asked the Angel of the Lord (Luke 1:34-35) was a question of knowing what to do while the question asked by Zachariah (Luke 1:18-20), John the Baptist's father was one of unbelief.

- a) 1 Corinthians 13:9 *"For we know in part, and we prophesy in part."*

As much as many of us think or believe we know it all, the Word makes it clear that we know in part. Our knowledge in this life is still partial. It may not look that way, but it is. We should get to a place where we understand that and not try to come up with answers for everything.

- b) Deuteronomy 29:29 *"The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law."*

- i) There are some things that God has revealed to us and other things (secret things) that He has not revealed. We need to accept this truth and the fact that we do not know all things.

- ii) Therefore, do not change what you believe because of some adversity. Never let the bad experiences you have had in the past affect your beliefs or form your beliefs.

- iii) **Guard your heart against offense. Do not get offended at God.** If you are and if you do, you are truly getting offended at the wrong Guy. You should be offended and mad at the devil.

- iv) **Do not let what you do not know affect or change what you do know.**

- Keep preaching the truth, raising the dead, healing the sick, casting out devils.
- v) The devil is going to pay for this. We don't make him pay for this by giving up, but by stepping out even the more and do what God has called us to do.
- vi) Romans 14:7-8 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.
- For the believer, it is a win-win situation. We die we win, we live we win. Philippians 1:21 *"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."*

#### E. Common unto men

- a) Never think that you are the only one who is going through whatever you are going through. This is a poly of the enemy. You are not the only one. People are going through the very same things you are going through. It might not look like it, but it is true based on God's Word. You are not alone.
- i) 1 Corinthians 10:13 *"There hath no temptation taken you but **such as is common to man**: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."* (Emphasis mine)
  - ii) 1 Peter 5:9 *"Whom resist steadfast in the faith, **knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.**"* (Emphasis mine)
- b) Satan will try to convince you that you are the only one going through this. That is a lie from the pit of hell.
- i) The Word of God says whatever you are going through is common stuff. It is common unto men.
  - ii) Do not allow Satan to get you in a corner, separated from everyone thinking you are the only one on earth going through what you are going through.

- iii) Before a lion attacks a herd of animals, he easily goes after the one that is a loner and separated from the flock by some distance.

One of the mature things we can say during a difficult time is " Lord, I do not understand why this happened, but I know and believe that you are a good God. I choose to worship and praise You for your love, mercy, grace, and kindness regardless of what happened. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

Rich Kanyal