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Allowing God in the Storms of Life
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We will find in walking out our purpose in life that we are going to have hindrances from time to time, opportunities to quit, and opportunities to step up and grow, and go to a higher level.

It was said of David in Acts Ch. 13 that he fulfilled God's purpose, counsel, and will in his life. He did the purpose God had for him. David had some setbacks along the way but he still fulfilled the plan of God. In the New Testament David's mistakes aren't mentioned, he is only referred to as a man after God's own heart.

When Jeremiah was speaking through God to the Israelites they were still in captivity in Babylon. Not only that they were looking at 70 years of it. The captivity was not God's plan but they got there through their disobedience, and in the midst of it God tells them that His plan has never changed for them.

Jeremiah 29:11 (KJV)

¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

2 Timothy 1:9 (KJV)

⁹ Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

If we can imagine that in the beginning God in His son Jesus, planted the purpose for all humanity individually and it is in Jesus that we find that purpose. The Lord has a purpose for each one of us.

Have you discovered God's purpose for your life? Or are you wandering two and fro wondering what it is? It's not God's plan that we all be a pastor, apostle, prophet, evangelist or teacher, but it is His purpose that we influence our world for righteousness and people can sense a measure of the goodness of God where we are at in the world. We are to be His hand extended in the workplace and a mouthpiece for Him. Some are called.

How to handle adversity.

In Mark Chapter 4 Jesus had just finished teaching on the parable of the sower, and after he further taught his disciples.

Mark 4:35 (KJV)

³⁵ And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.

The plan was for them to pass over to the other side of the sea of Galilee.

Mark 4:36-37 (KJV)

³⁶ And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.

³⁷ And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

The storm was a total surprise. The storm came to prevent the will and purpose of God. On the other side of the sea waited the woman with the issue of blood, and Jairus's daughter to be raised from the dead, etc. So Satan came to try to stop them.

We all have a circle of influence around us and if the adversary can stop God's purpose from being done in our lives, he will stop others from being ministered to and influenced.

Mark 4:38 (KJV)

³⁸ And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

In the midst of our storms, we could have the tendency to think that God doesn't care. This is what the disciples were thinking. They were not seeing a favorable outcome.

Mark 4:39 (KJV)

³⁹ And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

If this storm was of God, do you think Jesus would rebuke God? When we are blindsided we will have to determine if it's from God or from the devil to steal, kill, and destroy.

We must learn to determine who the author of our storms is. Where did it come from? If we can determine that it came from the adversary or satan you will have more confidence to rise up against it and resist it.

It's amazing that Jesus spoke to the storm. That is the plan of God for you and I. Other translations say he muzzled it. Its power was taken away, and its ability to harm and hurt was also. That is what Jesus is all about. Jesus wanted them to fulfill their plan and purpose on the earth.

So, when the storm comes know that if you can just hold steady, God's plan and purpose never changes and it always supersedes the plan of darkness.

Mark 4:40 (KJV)

⁴⁰ And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

The storms always come to instill fear and hopelessness. Not once and a while but always. Fear will displace faith and faith can displace fear, whichever side we lean towards. So when the storm comes we have got to trust God. Many places in the bible we are told to do so.

Job had inward fear and it came upon him. When it tries to come upon us we need to make sure we are on the side of faith.

Job 3:25 (KJV)

²⁵ For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.

It's amazing how Paul, who wrote 2/3 of the New Testament experienced great opposition.

Philippians 1:6 (KJV)

⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

In Acts 27 Paul was given the purpose to go to Rome and minister to the Caesars. He is on his way to Rome and waited until after the Autumn Equinox to sail and he told those in head of the ship that it was after the Equinox and that was when storms come and you shouldn't sail, but they told him it's great weather now so we are going to sail.

Well, the storm came and it was so violent, that they couldn't see the sun, moon, or the stars and in those times that was what was used for navigation. Starting in Acts 27 verse 20:

Acts 27:20 (KJV)

²⁰ And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.

Have you ever been in a situation when you wanted or did say there is no hope? This is where the other prisoners and those in charge of the ship were at. They lost their sense of direction, and that is the exact thing the devil wants to do to us. We end up not knowing whether we are going to serve God or not and we don't know if we are coming or going. We don't know whether God is for us or against us. We don't know if anybody cares and why is this happening to me? Sound familiar?

Not one time did anything remotely close to those words come out of Paul's mouth! He did tell them that they should have listened to him and then he began to exhort them. Exhortation should always bring encouragement. Prophecy can be of gloom and doom and have a spirit of faith with it or it can be gloom and doom and not have a spirit of faith with it. We all need to be able to discern between the two. You need to know that there is a spirit of faith with it that says everything is going to turn out alright, because you are going to dwell in the secret place of the most high, and a thousand may fall at your left side and ten thousand at your right, but it will not come nigh me. Immerse yourself in Psalm 91 and God will take care of you.

Acts 27:21-22 (KJV)

²¹ But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.

²² And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship.

You may be beat down, you may have messed up royally, but when God comes to you, He is going to talk about His purpose. He isn't going to come and tell you how bad it is, you already know that, but what you can't see in the moment is that God still has a purpose and that is what you need to be listening for and to.

The following is the Word of the Lord that Paul got for them.

Acts 27:23-25 (KJV)

²³ For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,

²⁴ Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

²⁵ Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

Don't forget who you are serving in the midst of the storm. Don't forget you still belong to God. Don't forget to have a cheerful and joyful attitude.

God gave his purpose to Paul and told him how to fulfill it.

We may be in the middle of a storm, we may have messed up royally, but God will talk about His purpose when we repent. It never changes.

Paul told them that even in the midst of the storm that he was going to believe God.

You cannot stop believing God in the middle of a violent attack or in something that has blindsided you to get you to believe that it's all over. Keep on believing, keep the switch of faith on. For surely there is a light at the end of the tunnel. God is a god of hope. Paul's hope was in God turned into faith.

If you believe God you can see it and it shows in you and on the outside to others. This will take care of bad attitudes in everyday life.

Discontentment postpones the purpose of God. We must show maturity and give thanks unto God in the midst of our storms, struggles, and circumstances.

The storm continued even after the word was given. This is when questions and reasonings come in. Now, did I really hear from God? I thought God said ---. What did God say here? That the ship would be lost but no loss of life. Even when the storm continues to rage we must keep believing.

The rest of the chapter tells the rest of the story of the ship being destroyed but no loss of life as The Word told. The story continues into Chapter 28 with Paul ministering to the natives. God's purpose never changed.

Fear not, choose to believe what God said.

When all was done in that situation with Paul, he received a fresh anointing. He ministered in power and authority. This is to be an encouragement to us that if we keep believing God we will come out with greater ability than we had when we went into the storm. We will come out with a greater awareness of Jesus and His presence in our life. That's God's plan. The devil came with a purpose to destroy, but Jesus plan is for a greater anointing in My power. Amen.

Matthew 14 John the Baptist was be-headed and the news was brought to Jesus. John was the only one that knew the true plan and purpose God had for Jesus. He was the one that in his mother's womb jumped when his mother visited Mary.

When Jesus got the news he went to the multitudes and began to heal the sick and cast out devils. He went into satan's kingdom and wreak havoc and set the captives free. His best friend's life was taken he didn't allow it to stop his purpose.

Hold steady in the midst of the storm and the presence of God will rest upon you in a fuller way, because God's plan and purpose never changes for us.

Father, right now we speak to the storm that has come to violently assault. Storm, wind, the voice of the adversary, the circumstances of the adversary, you must desist in Jesus name and to be muzzled. Be muzzled in Jesus name. And may even the adversary that has come against the people of God even if it's through people, may they have a total change of heart, in Jesus name. In Jesus name.

Father we declare what you have blessed cannot be cursed. And you said no weapon formed against us will prosper and you said every tongue that would rise against us in judgment would not condemn. For this is the heritage of the servants of the Lord. Because their righteousness is of me saith the Lord.

Father, I pray for a fresh word from you and bring words you have given to their remembrance. Give them a fresh word and may they know that the storm will cease and may they know that they will come out of it, what the world would call, smelling like a rose, a fresh presence of Jesus and anointing in their life. In Jesus name.