

Sunday, January 29, 2012

If You Only Believe
Pastor Margaret Mendenhall

Even more important than having a victory is the process of getting there. The process of getting to victory is even more important than the victory itself.

From the time that a problem arises until you get to the other side of and you have the victory and you can seal it, you will have time and during that time you will need Godly wisdom in order to know what to do during that trial.

In the book of Luke chapter 22 Jesus tells Peter that satan wants to get his hand on him so-to-speak. That satan wants to sift him like wheat. Jesus didn't tell him that he would keep him from coming, or that he would take care of him. He told him he would pray for him. He prayed that his faith wouldn't fail. Faith is the most important thing to have in the middle of a trial. We have to keep our faith and not let it slip or diminish. It is satan's plan for every person to get them out of the care and keeping of the Lord.

Luke 22:31-32 (AMP)

³¹Simon, Simon (Peter), listen! Satan ^[a]has asked excessively that [all of] you be given up to him [out of the power and keeping of God], that he might sift [all of] you like grain,

³²But I have prayed especially for you [Peter], that your [own] faith may not fail; and when you yourself have turned again, strengthen and establish your brethren.

When our faith doesn't fail we have a call on our life. The Lord has something he wants you to do, something He wants you to do for somebody else. It's not just about us getting what we need during a trial; it's about us getting through it so we can help someone else.

When our faith fails we fail somebody else.

Peter failed miserably. He denied he knew Jesus and wept bitterly. He went through an agonizing time in his life, but his faith did not fail. Judas's faith failed but not Peter's.

1 Peter 4:12 (AMP)

¹²Beloved, do not be amazed and bewildered at the fiery ordeal which is taking place to test your quality, as though something strange (unusual and alien to you and your position) were befalling you.

Trials will come that we must face in life. We are in this world but satan is the god of this world. He is ruler of darkness in the earth and we are light right in the middle of it.

Satan has a plan, God has a plan. We all have a choice in every situation that comes our way to adopt satan's plan or go for the victory.

When trials come we need to be ready. We need training to become an overcomer. When the trials come we will quickly find out what is on the inside of us. We need to know how to get to the place of victory. We need Godly wisdom.

John 16:33 (AMP)

³³I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace and confidence. In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]! For I have overcome the world. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.]

The bad news is that trials will come and the good news is we are to be of good cheer. We need to know the end from the beginning. We know how it's going to turn out if we follow what God wants us to do, and it will turn out the way God wants it to turn out.

Yes, it may hurt, but don't let it harm you. Things are going to hurt us in this life; we are going to be hurt. Jesus was hurt but he wasn't harmed. We are only harmed when we allow the hurt to fester and we process the hurt wrongly. We need to process it scripturally. That's the only way. We have to see what God has said about the end result. Jesus said he overcame. All things are possible if we can but just believe. It's our faith that brings us to the victory. It's not necessarily even doing everything right. It's our faith that pushes us on.

When our faith does not fail the outcome is already determined.

1 Peter 4:13 (AMP)

¹³But insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, rejoice, so that when His glory [full of radiance and splendor] is revealed, you may also rejoice with triumph [exultantly].

Jesus suffered for us.

Hebrews 4:15 (KJV)

¹⁵For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Jesus suffered was tempted but didn't sin. He went through so He could minister to us.

Peter says when we get through the fiery trials that come to try us there is glory on the other side, the same glory that rested on Jesus. And when come out of a temptation victorious then those who are in greatness will see your great light. That's The Master's plan.

Satan also has a plan.

Peter 5:8 (AMP)

⁸Be well balanced (temperate, sober of mind), be vigilant and cautious at all times; for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring [^ain fierce hunger], seeking someone to seize upon and devour.

Here is what we as Christians are to do according to the bible, right away, immediately when satan comes.

1 Peter 5:9 (AMP)

⁹Withstand him; be firm in faith [against his onset--rooted, established, strong, immovable, and determined], knowing that the same (^aidentical) sufferings are appointed to your brotherhood (the whole body of Christians) throughout the world.

Ephesians 6:13 (AMP)

¹³Therefore put on God's complete armor, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day [of danger], and, having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place].

Ephesians 6:16 (AMP)

¹⁶Lift up over all the [covering] shield of [^asaving faith, upon which you can quench all the flaming missiles of the wicked [one].

In Mark 5 is the account of Jairus's begging Jesus to come and heal his daughter. Circumstances came to derail. The most important thing to remember in the midst of a trial is we must watch our attitude and our mouth.

Mark 5:36 (AMP)

³⁶^aOverhearing but ignoring what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, Do not be seized with alarm and struck with fear; only keep on believing.

An attitude that will stop our progress in the middle of a trial is self-pity. Self-pity is a precursor for offense, and offense will stop you in your tracks. If Jairus would have taken this attitude his daughter would have died. Offense will stop your progress. It's a trap and it will stop you in your tracks. When you handle a baited trap that is set you better handle it very carefully.

Offense is a baited trap and we must look at it cautiously, don't toy with it or we might get caught.

In 1 Samuel 30, David had come back from battle and found out that his hometown had been destroyed and the women and children had been taken captive. Verse 4 says the men wept until they had no strength. This does not help the situation. We must press in. It has no power to change things. In verse 6 it was spoken of stoning David for what had happened, but David encouraged and strengthened himself in the Lord his God. David asked for the outcome and the Lord answered him.

In the middle of the trial go to God and ask him what to do and he will answer you. He will tell you what to do and we must just do it.

This is the end result if we follow what God tells us to do.

2 Corinthians 2:14-15 (AMP)

¹⁴But thanks be to God, Who in Christ always leads us in triumph [as trophies of Christ's victory] and through us spreads and makes evident the fragrance of the knowledge of God everywhere,

¹⁵For we are the sweet fragrance of Christ [which exhales] unto God, [discernible alike] among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing:

Margaret read a word she received from the Lord that she put at the end of her book, Fall Like Lightning from Heaven.

If My word is your guideline for living and my voice you instantly obey then your feet will be firmly established on the straight and on the narrow way. Then devastation can be all around you but only with your eyes will you see the devastation that comes to the disobedient but harm will not come nigh thee. Then you can stand with confident assurance in victory the whole world can see and tell them with great conviction it pays to live scripturally. Amen.

There are people who are in the middle of a test, trial or tribulation, you are struggling. You need to know the outcome. If you will listen and seek God's face He promises he will show you what the end result is. He will show us exactly what we need to know and He will take your hand and guide you in the way you need to go. So turn your eyes from the circumstances and refuse to see the negative and allow the word of god to come on the inside of you and lead you in the path he wants you to go.