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Bringing God into the Difficulties of Life
Pastor Charles Mendenhall

There are times in our lives we don't comprehend when pressure is upon us that God has never changed, He is always there and for us no matter what.

In John chapter 16 Jesus is preparing his disciples for his departure.

John 16:33 (KJV)

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.

Tribulation is pressure or problems.

John 16:33 (MSG)

³¹⁻³³ Jesus answered them, "Do you finally believe? In fact, you're about to make a run for it—saving your own skins and abandoning me. But I'm not abandoned. The Father is with me. I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world."

Notice how the message says we will be unshakable. We are to be unshakable in Jesus.

Romans 1:11 (KJV)

¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;

The church is all about equipping people and causing them to be established in any circumstances of life and knowing because of Jesus and what he has done through His death, burial and resurrection at the right hand of the father that we are in Him and all things are under our feet. Our position today is seated at the Son's right hand with all things under our feet. He sees us as more than a conqueror so we can be established.

In Mark chapter 4 includes the parable of the sower and if we as Christians do not understand the principles in this than we will have difficulty understanding the ways of the Kingdom of God. After the multitudes had left Jesus called his disciples around him and began to teach them the meaning of the parable and allow for discussion.

Mark 4:34-41 (KJV)

³⁴ But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.

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

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.*

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?*

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.*

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

⁴¹ *And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?*

They were to pass over to the other side of the lake. They started to go over and they met resistance. Have you ever heard a word of the Lord, start to obey it, and almost instantly begin to get some resistance? We may not know what to do and even question if we heard the word of the Lord. But God's purpose and God's plan in this situation was for them to go to the other side.

The root of the word arose in verse 37 comes from totally unexpected. The disciples had just been personally taught and a storm comes up totally unexpected. The disciples had just been taught and had the Word of God sown into their lives and just as the teaching said satan came immediately to steal the word.

The same is true today. We can hear a word or message that really ministers to us and then something comes immediately to get us off course and to strip us from what was just sown into us.

The disciples wakened Jesus and asked him if he cared if they would perish. We do that today with thinking that God doesn't even care or isn't interested in what we are going through. The disciples in this situation were seeing failure. Jesus had just planted the seed and now satan came immediately to rob them. Satan blindsides us because if the seed of the word has time to take root and become fruitful in our lives we will get the harvest, but if it's not allowed to take root there can't be any fruit or harvest.

A storm is a violent attack or assault. Jesus told of the tribulation but gave instruction on what to do. When we get into a storm we need to know where it is coming from. Some of the storms we get into we make of ourselves with wrong choices and bad decisions. This one however came from satan to destroy and was not from God. Jesus would not have rebuked God the father. He, the Father and the Holy Spirit are one. The problem is not God or coming from him.

We are to have peace. God does care. Jesus spoke to the storm and it ceased. If we cry out to God in our storm and get our eyes off our circumstances as in Matthew chapter 14 when Peter was walking on the water and God saved him. Same with us, if we cry out to God in the midst of our storm He will bring deliverance. The storm comes in such a way that we think we are finished and nothing is going to work out. The devil has his settled plan but God has his plan also.

We are like the disciples in that we can hear and get excited about a message and be in the presence of the Lord as they had been under Jesus teaching and were in His presence and then pressure comes we change our believing to one of doubt and unbelief as the disciples did in the storm. The King James Version used the word fear. Jesus also told them they had NO faith.

When pressure is on us we can't quit believing what God has promised us. We believe in spite of circumstances or because of them. Fear is always designed to get us to see the worst.

In Acts chapter 27 Paul is on his way to Rome to stand before Caesar. He finds favor with the centurion and those that are over him. There are 276 on the ship. They are trying to beat the weather. Paul doesn't want to sail and believes that there would be danger to their lives and the ship. A storm comes before the day was over and there was no hope for their safety.

The Lord began to speak to Paul right in the midst of it. They hadn't seen the sun or moon in several days.

Acts 27:21 (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.

Sometimes for people to listen they have to get into some tough situations. It's amazing how then they decide to listen. Paul reminded them of this. Sometimes we don't take advice well then we can get into a situation and we should learn and not be condemning. That will only bring us down further and further. Learn from it and don't repeat it.

Acts 27:22-24 (KJV)

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.

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.

In verse 22 Paul is talking to the crew and the prisoners. Paul gave a word that God gave him in the midst of the storm. The Lord spoke to Paul about the purpose of Paul's life and was told that the purpose never changes and plan is still the same. Just because there is a storm and circumstances don't look good they don't change plan and purpose.

When God gives a word in the midst of a storm, do not be afraid, will be preface. The storms is always designed to get our eyes off of what God has promised you and look at the storm and the circumstances being waged against you and to try to get you to believe that it's over and not going to come to pass. This is where fear begins to manipulate us or control us. We will begin to have more faith and confidence in the adverse circumstances than we do in what God said.

The word of God is greater than any mountain that arises; any giant that arises, God's word is greater. He never said our faith would prohibit mountains and giants from arising in our life but our faith is to remove them.

Acts 27:25 (KJV)

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

God will not join your pity party. He will only tell you that His plans have never changed for you. He still has a purpose for you and it never changes. There isn't any storm that is big enough or violent enough to rob you of fulfilling the purpose God has for you.

When things are going well it isn't difficult to know where and who you belong to that God is your source. Notice in verse 23 Paul spoke of whose he was. No matter what we need to keep serving God.

Sometimes when we get under pressure we reprioritize what is important. Some of the things we have been clinging to there is no value and they have no importance to us. This is a good thing that happens under pressure.

Paul didn't change his beliefs in the midst of the storm to something else. He chose to believe what God said.

By verse 34 they had been out in the storm 14 days. They had been fasting and praying. Paul reaffirms what God is saying,

Acts 27:34-45 (KJV)

³⁴ Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you.

³⁵ And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat.

³⁶ Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat.

³⁷ And we were in all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls.

³⁸ And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, and cast out the wheat into the sea.

³⁹ And when it was day, they knew not the land: but they discovered a certain creek with a shore, into the which they were minded, if it were possible, to thrust in the ship.

⁴⁰ And when they had taken up the anchors, they committed themselves unto the sea, and loosed the rudder bands, and hoised up the mainsail to the wind, and made toward shore.

⁴¹ And falling into a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the forepart stuck fast, and remained unmoveable, but the hinder part was broken with the violence of the waves.

⁴² And the soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out, and escape.

⁴³ But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land:

⁴⁴ And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land.

In a corporate setting if your leader has heard from God and you stay with it you will weather the storm and be fine.

When you hold steady in adversity you are going to come out of it with a fresh anointing on you and in your life. You will come out with a freshness of the Holy Ghost, with confidence knowing that God does deliver and come to my aid. You will keep doing that purpose that God has for you.

In Matthew chapter 4 after the temptation and the 40 days and nights in the desert Jesus came out with a fresh anointing on his life and those in darkness saw a great light as he began to minister.

Romans 5:1-3 (AMP)

5 Therefore, since we are justified (^[a]acquitted, declared righteous, and given a right standing with God) through faith, let us [grasp the fact that we] have [the peace of reconciliation to hold and to ^[b]enjoy] peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

2 Through Him also we have [our] access (entrance, introduction) by faith into this grace (state of God's favor) in which we [firmly and safely] stand. And let us rejoice and exult in our hope of experiencing and enjoying the glory of God.

3 Moreover [let us also be full of joy now!] let us exult and triumph in our troubles and rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that pressure and affliction and hardship produce patient and unswerving endurance.

Notice that the scripture says that pressure and affliction and hardship produce patient and unswerving endurance.

It is going to take patience and endurance to finish our race spiritually.

2 Timothy 2:2-3 (AMP)

2 And the [instructions] which you have heard from me along with many witnesses, transmit and entrust [as a deposit] to reliable and faithful men who will be competent and qualified to teach others also.

3 Take [with me] your share of the hardships and suffering [which you are called to endure] as a good (first-class) soldier of Christ Jesus.

We are called to not give up and endure as a good first class soldier of Jesus. They don't quit they endure.

2 Timothy 2:11 (AMP)

11 The saying is sure and worthy of confidence: If we have died with Him, we shall also live with Him.

1 Thessalonians 2:17-19 (KJV)

17 But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your face with great desire.

18 Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.

19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

Hindered here means to cut off or impede by breaking. Satan breaks up the road we are traveling with adverse circumstances. He hinders us.

1 Peter 4:12 (MSG)

Glory Just Around the Corner

12-13 Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job.

Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner.

Pastor gave an invitation and prayed for those who are in the storms of life in an adverse way and need wisdom to get out.