

IN TIME OF CRISIS

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Life is a blend of ups and downs. There are good times and bad times. It is normal. Sometimes, our sins and failures cause them. And sometimes things we have no control over cause them. The righteous goes through crisis of one kind or the other. Job suffered not for his sins but because God wanted to prove to Satan that Job was not serving him because He was blessing him. But Job was declared a blameless man.

Crisis sometimes come as oppositions, persecutions, failures, disappointments, rejections, losses, bankruptcy, stagnancy, financial needs, family problems, separation, threatened divorce, unemployment, academic problems, spiritual problems and health problems. A crisis is a barrier on a man's way that needs to be removed. We all need to learn how to handle crisis in order to overcome without being broken by it.

Crisis is a trial period when we are expected to use the biblical principles we have learnt from God to manage and overcome. It is a time to prove the genuineness of our faith and commitment to God. God does not expect us to crash under a difficult circumstance, but to triumph over it and become better at the end. God uses crisis to strengthen and build our faith and life in Him. Crisis time is a time of perfection. It is a time for God to cleanse us from the unwanted, teach us some lessons and bring out the good qualities in us. It is a time to die to the flesh and become spiritually alive. It is a practical time to prove who we really are and what we really believe.

Many have fallen away from the faith because they passed through rough times, and they couldn't handle it. Many became depressed and frustrated to the point that they can't think straight anymore. Some ended up as psychiatric patients in the hospitals. Some have become atheists because of a crisis time that they passed through. Some even doubt the love of God for their lives because they called on God, and it appeared as if He will never answer or doesn't hear them. Whatever be the situation, God's love never fails, and He will never abandon His own in trouble.

Whatever be your situation right now, I want you to know that God loves you endlessly, and will never abandon you in your situation. In fact He is doing what He can to help you out of the situation. That is why this publication reached you. Have faith in His love. He is able and willing to deliver you.

"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in a triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him." (2 Corinthians 2:14)

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

"For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith." (1 John 5:4)

From these passages, it is obvious in the redemptive plan, God took care of crisis for his children. Jesus victory is our victory. He says we should take heart and be

of good cheer because he has overcome the world for us. If you are born again, you are an overcomer. We are born with the power to overcome every challenge that comes our way. This power is only activated through faith. You have to just believe that you will overcome. You have to believe that your Heavenly Father will not allow you to be tempted beyond your capacity to bear, because he does not want you to fall.

He daily leads us in triumphant procession. He gives us victory every day over challenges of life. If you will trust him rather than question his love and wisdom, you will be triumphant. If you will have faith in him and in yourself that you will overcome rather than look for who to blame and complain that God is not fair because you have served him and does not deserve in your own assessment this misfortune, you will overcome. Just trust and don't quarrel. Just trust and don't complain. Just trust and don't withdraw from fellowshiping with God and the brethren. He will lead you in triumphal procession. He that is born of God overcomes the world because God overcomes the world. Just like your Father, you are an overcomer. God never breaks under any challenge. You have his life and nature, therefore you will make it. Have faith.

STEPS TO VICTORY OVER CRISIS

1. You need to believe in who you are in Christ.

Knowledge of who you are gives inner energy to fight on to victory. That is why the Bible is full of passages that reveal who we are in Christ.

“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or of a husband’s will, but born of God.” (John 1:12,13)

“The one who comes from above is above all...” (John 3:31)

“For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith.” (1 John 5:4)

Space will not permit us to refer to all the passages that reveal who we are in Christ. But the passages quoted above are enough to strengthen you and bring out the overcomer in you. It takes faith to overcome. And faith comes by acknowledging what God says about you. You must believe in these scriptures. It is not enough for you to know them, you must believe in them with all your heart without a single doubt.

To be a child of God means you are like God. It means you have his nature and life. And if that is true, it means that what he can take, you can also. It means that you can overcome what he can overcome. You can love as he loves. You can forgive as he forgives. You can stand any situation, as he is able to. Everything that makes him able to put up with man's evil behaviour without getting so angry as to destroy mankind, he has put in you also. That is why Apostle John by the Holy Spirit says he who is born of God overcomes the world. By nature, every believer is an overcomer. Defeat is not in our nature. To throw in the towel is not in the nature of the believer in Christ. We are winners and finishers by birth in Christ. Don't allow any condition to defeat you. Face it boldly and not with fear and anxiety. Your faith is what gives you victory. You will finish what you have started. You will accomplish that goal. You will overcome that challenge.

You must believe you are more than any and every challenge that will come your way any time any day. You are from above. Your father is from above; he is called God Almighty. And he who is from above is above all. You are above all the problems and challenges of life. In Him, you are above all. He has overcome for us. His victory is our victory. He lives in you and that is what makes the difference. You are not of this world anymore, but of heaven. You have a supernatural life in you, which makes the things that give men nightmares not to overcome you. You are victorious by the nature you have. Approach every crisis on earth with this mindset and you will always have victory.

2. Don't magnify the crisis by focusing negatively on it.

When you focus on the problem negatively, you will blow the problem out of proportion. The situation will then become bigger, tougher, rougher and mightier than you can handle. This in turn will make you panic, fear, worry and doubt the ability of God to handle the matter for you.

"Thou will keep in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." (Isaiah 26:3)

"In repentance and rest is your salvation. In quietness and trust is your strength." (Isaiah 30:15)

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2)

God expects us to fix our minds on him and not the problem facing us. When we fix our minds on God, he gives us peace, which is very necessary for him to strengthen us and work out our deliverance. God does not perform when we do not trust him in peacefulness of mind. When you focus on the problem, you will become troubled, but when you place your trust in God, peace is given and a miracle occurs. Don't worry or panic. Don't be anxious, but have faith. Never consider a problem to be too difficult for you. If you do, then it will be difficult for you to trust God for victory. See God in you always, and you will see yourself as capable. And when you see yourself as capable, peace will flood your heart, and then God your Father will go to work for you. Don't forget that God only works for us when we are trustingly quiet, waiting on him to change our situation.

3. Believe the mountain will be overcome.

Your faith is what gets the job done. Your faith therefore must be intact if the problem must be solved.

"Have faith in God". Jesus answered. "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, "go throw yourself into the sea", and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you

ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” (Mark 11:22-24)

Faith is very important if mountains are to be moved and situations change. It takes strong faith to address a situation to move and have it come to pass. Therefore it is very essential that one build his or her faith before embarking on the task of moving a mountain. Only faith makes it possible.

Have faith in your God and in yourself. Believe you have been given all it takes to overcome every challenge that comes your way. Have faith in your prayers. Believe that when you pray, God hears you and no one can hinder your prayer from being heard and answered. Believe you have received what you have asked God and then and only then you will receive it.

CONCLUSION

You are more than a conqueror. You are from above and above all the problems of this world. You are no longer under the dominion of darkness. You are no longer under the dominion of sin because you are not under the law but under grace. Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world. You are a champion, a king to reign in this life. Do not fear. Do not panic. Do not worry but trust the Lord with all your heart and he will see you through and make you victorious. Don't just read this and agree it is true, but believe it and work with it now and always. Remain victorious in Jesus Christ!

If you have not given your life to Christ, do it now. Victory is only guaranteed in Christ. Say these prayers out loud in faith with all your heart right now: ***Dear Jesus, I believe in you with all my heart that you came to this world for me. You died for my sins and rose on the third day that I may have life through faith in you. Today you are seated at the right hand of the Father Almighty in power and glory. I now receive you into my heart as my Saviour and Lord forever. Forgive my sins and save me and make me your child and faithful follower. Thank you for accepting and saving me. I am now born again and a child of God.***

Write me and let me know you have given your life to Jesus and I will pray for you and send you some materials that will help you grow in him. God bless you.

WORDS OF WISDOM

TWELVE THINGS YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT FORGIVENESS

- 1. If you forgive others, your own forgiveness is guaranteed.**
- 2. Forgiveness will enable you love those who hurt you, and even those who hate you.**
- 3. Forgiveness keeps you connected to God.**
- 4. Forgiveness helps you not to keep record of wrongs.**
- 5. Forgiveness establishes God's protection around the forgiver.**
- 6. Forgiveness nourishes love.**
- 7. Forgiveness keeps love from getting sour.**
- 8. Forgiveness strengthens and builds relationship.**

9. **An unforgiving character is the worst character a man will manifest.**
10. **It is to the credit of a man to forgive and overlook an offence.**
11. **Forgiveness is the healing balm of relationships. It helps to heal broken hearts – internal hurts and wounds.**
12. **Unforgiving thoughts are unhealthy thoughts that destroy the health of the thinker without warning.**

Singles Corner