

OPTIMISM versus DISCOURAGEMENT

Jan. 24, 2021

We are living in a very dark time spiritually. This was foretold by Isaiah.

Yet, in this very dark time, God has promised a world wide revival.

Let's read Isaiah 60:1-5:

“Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. Behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

And [the nations] shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. ... because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.” Isaiah 60:1-5, KJV.

History tells us that revival comes when conditions are at their worst.

People have lost common sense, gross darkness cover the minds of man.

But the Lord is going to arise on his people, His glory will be visibly seen.

Some have estimated that 1 billion people are going to turn to the Lord.

But Right now, things are very dark, very bleak, but God has a plan.

Presently, there is much worldliness in the church.

Many are halfhearted, double-minded, moral impurity, homosexuality...

The church today is filled with sensual worldly music, porno, compromise.

Many preachers are giving an imbalanced, false Grace message.

This is the reason God is allowing great turmoil. To get our attention.

To turn the Church back to the fear the Lord, and holy living.

Humanity does not listen to God, when everything is too easy.

This is the reason God has to allow great difficulties.

It is to get man's attention, and turn us back to God.

Scripture tells us that God uses trouble, to bless us....

To get our attention... De 23:5b ... but the LORD thy God turned the curse into a blessing unto thee, because the LORD thy God loved thee.

When God first instituted the curse in Genesis 3:17, he said:

...Cursed is the ground for thy sake.”

This was actually God’s mercy and love to fallen man. Man has fallen nature and needs restraints / restrictions to help keep him on course.

The Lord knows that man soon forgets God and becomes careless when everything is too easy...

So he has to allow difficulties, thorns, sweat, problems..to get our attention

This is what is happening today in the world, tremendous difficulties.

But this is all God's mercy, to get our attention. To turn us back to him.

And to prepare us for the greatest revival of the world has ever seen.

So, we are not to look at today's complicated situations with despair.

We are not to be discouraged and depressed. God is using all of this,

To prepare us for a tremendous world revival! Let's be greatly encouraged.

God wants us to have great faith, encouragement, expectation, No despair.

We are not to feel hopeless or discouraged.: But to “expect the ultimate good.” It is important have a good confession of his faithfulness / care for us. Remember, God is light, there is no darkness or negative thing in Him.

Discouragement - the result of listening to / agreeing with wrong thoughts.

Lord, give us discernment. Help us to reject all dark gloomy thoughts.

Let's be a *thankful* and a *positive* person. This makes us attractive to God. The Bible is filled with positive confessions, we want to mention just a few: It would be good to write these down, though we know him quite well.

PAUL SAID:

- Being confident of this very thing... He that has begun a good work in you will complete it. Phil.1:6. God is going to finish what he started. Then ...
- Praise be unto God, who always causes us to triumph - always gives us the victory. 2 Cor. 2:14. What a declaration, ultimately we will always win. Of course we have to live a godly and righteous life.
- And we know do all things are working together for good to those who love him. Romans 8:28.
- "...In all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." Romans 8:37, KJV. Listen to Paul's positive confession:

To live is Christ, to die is gain. Phil. 1:21

To depart and be with Christ is far better. Phil. 1:23 Paul is telling us that even death is nothing for those who are living Godly. To depart and be with Christ is so very much better.

DAVID SAID: Listen to all these positive declarations.

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all, in Psalm 34:19. God will give us victory in everything.

And then in Psalm 138:8: "The Lord will perfect that which concerns me." God is going to work everything out in my life,

In Psalm 18:29 "By my God I can run through a troop, and leap over a wall." God has and will give me tremendous victories.

“I have never seen the righteous forsaken, nor seed begging for bread” in Psa. 37:25. God is going to take care of us in times of famine.

Remember — without faith it is not possible to please God. Hebrews 11:6

Isa. 54:17 reminds us that - No weapon formed against thee shall prosper.

In Gen. 50:20, Joseph said to his brethren who had betrayed him — “You meant this for evil, but God meant it for good, to bring life.”

His brethren had betrayed him, even wanted to murder him.

He was sold for a slave, he was in prison in a foreign land.

God used all of this to prepare him to be in world deliverer.

So he declares, God meant all of this for good, to save many people.

Deut.23:5 confirms this: where it says, The Lord turned the curse unto a blessing, because He loved thee. Nehemiah 13:2 also

Ecc. 3:11 tells us that “He makes all things beautiful in his time.”

The confession of our mouth is so important. So, during this turbulent time, let's keep our hearts soft, and have a very positive confession!

Israel failed in the wilderness, because of an evil confession.

They criticized God all along the journey. They hardened their hearts. In Numbers 14:28 on, Everyone in the wilderness got what they confessed.

Israel said, God hates us, he brought us into this wilderness to destroy us. God said, if that's what you say about me, you will die in the wilderness. Caleb / Joshua said, if The lord delights in us he will bring us into the land. God said, you're going into the land.

We overcome Satan by the word of our testimony, by a right confession. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly (Job 1:22).

In all this did not Job sin with his lips (Job 2:10).

The Lord desires to perfect our faith, and our confession.

We need greater eternal vision! Often people are too shortsighted.

Jesus endured the cross because of the joy set before him (Hebrews 12:2).

We must see beyond the short life.

Abraham dwelt in a strange land in tents, he saw heavenly city Heb.11:8-10

He anticipated that city (heavenly Jerusalem), because he had seen it.

Thus, he was willing to forsake all.

God wants to increase our faith, and purify the words of our mouth, Openly stand against gloomy, dark negative thoughts. They become words.

Keep a positive confession, and the faith of the Son of God in your heart, And be thankful always. This makes us attractive to God.

TREMENDOUS POWER OF WORDS

Confessions are *creative*, wrong confessions *welcome in* to the devil.

Wrong confessions, Bring despair and depression, discouragement.

- Let's confess, “This is the day the Lord hath made, we'll rejoice and be glad in it” (Psa.118:24). We must never find fault with God..

Always confess Mk 7:37* He hath done all things well: Samuel's words:

1 Samuel 7:3: “If ye return unto the LORD with all your hearts, ... and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: he will deliver you. ...” from your enemies” 1 Samuel 7:3, KJV.

When The church gets right with God, the Lord will defend the nation.

God's perspective

We need God's perspective on what is happening today in America and in the world. God uses difficulties to get our attention, to bring us to repentance. Then he delivers us from our problems. This is what the book of Judges is all about.

Israel was mightily blessed, they soon drifted away from God. God had to raise up trouble and problems to get their attention. They repented, God delivered.

Let's learn from all this: Remember, who the Lord loves he chastens. Let's read Hebrews 12:5-7, KJV.

My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?"

In closing today, let us not be discouraged, let us be very optimistic.

God is using great difficulty and turmoil in our country, to prepare us for revival. To bring deep okay cleansing To his church. Let us not be discouraged. God is doing wonderful things. Amen

