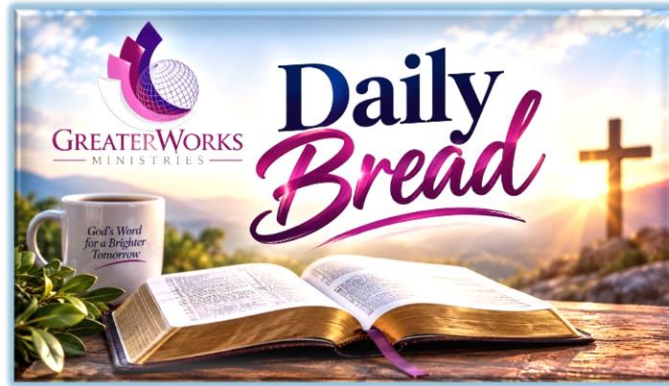




28/02/2022

FROM ADVERSITY TO TESTIMONY (PART 1)

Proverbs 24:10 (KJV) "If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small"

In life, there is a day/period called a day of adversity or a day of tough times. Adversity means times of trouble, times of challenges, tough times. Every one of us will go through times of adversity regardless of where you come from or who you are. Adversity is a friend of the human race. Adversity is a unifier because everyone will have to go through it. Only that we go through different types of adversity.

The scripture above has pointed out that, if you faint, or lose power in the day of adversity, then you have very small strength. Wow! So, which means adversity does not come to kill but it comes to test our strength, tenacity and resilience because your story starts from the day of adversity to the day of your testimony. All stories we listen to, movies that we watch are of someone moving from an adversity to a testimony. Such people are what we call heroes today, people who showed resilience in the face of adversity. Your money, your recognition comes from your journey out of adversity.

The sad thing most people will never come out of adversity, they faint during it. Some will run away from marriages, some will quit church or even backslide because of adversity. The scripture above has made it very clear that those who faint during adversity have very little strength in them. If you want to see how strong your partner is, check their behaviour during the time of adversity. No fake thing can stand the test of adversity. Even nations go through times of adversity like Ukraine right now, good thing is they are not fainting, they are resilient.

4×4 vehicles are built to overcome tough terrain, tough conditions. When the terrain gets tough or muddy, the vehicle engages into four-wheel drive systems to overcome the challenge. With a two-wheel drive system, the vehicle cannot beat this condition. A bicycle is worse, when the terrain gets tougher the man on the bicycle will have to come down and push his bike or carry it. So, the coming of adversity will show us who is a 4×4 and who is a bicycle.

Bicycles are those who will always require a push, or even a lifting for them to beat the terrain. If they lose their job, they also lose their faith. If they lose their marriage, they also lose their faith. If someone does not carry them or push them, they roll back or backslide. Adversity needs 4×4s, those who say, when the going gets tough, I also toughen up. Are you a 4×4 or you are a bicycle? Adversity will show us who you are.

Did I tell you that after every adversity there is a testimony? Yes, nothing is permanent in life, adversity too is not permanent, it will come to pass. Some will prolong their time in adversity and some because their strength is small will worsen the adversity, for example, a young man who wants to beat adversity by using and selling drugs, instead of coming out of it, he gets both addicted and arrested, that becomes worse. Tomorrow, we will discuss how adversity can be made worse or shorter.

As I write, I know there is someone out there who is moving slowly out of adversity towards a testimony. I want to encourage you, keep moving by faith, do not faint, the journey out of adversity is not a very fast one. It's like a car going over a mountain, the speed is reduced but slowly, surely it is going over. We will hear your story very soon. You are the next one with a testimony. Hallelujah

Pastor C&S

01/03/2022

FROM ADVERSITY TO TESTIMONY (PART 2)

Proverbs 24:10 (KJV) If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.

It is both very human and divine to go through adversity. You cannot pray away adversity every time or cannot wish it away. Some problems should be allowed to run their course in our lives. If an adversity is of God, even if you try to pray it away, it will not go...God would want you to pass through it. Remember Jesus prayed **Mathew 26:39** "Father let this cup pass from me."

What to do during time of adversity.

1. Be patient.

Be always ready to endure the adversity. Adjust yourself and brace for it. Life will be moving slowly during adversity, be patient with the pace. **James 1:4 (KJV)** "But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

Temptation will be there to do short cuts but overcome that temptation. Slowly but surely, you will be moving towards a place of testimony.

2. Be a quick learner.

Adversity is good teacher of many things. Things that you may not learn in school or in church adversity will teach you. Lessons that you learn in adversity will die with you.

If you were bad with money, adversity will teach you to value every cent and pick up every coin. Do not let adversity pass without you learning important life lessons. If you do not learn some things quickly, you prolong your season of adversity.

3. Look away from men.

Normally men will distance themselves from people who are in problems. If adversity has hit you well, remove your eyes from men and look up to God. Let God's Word be your lamp and let His Spirit be your friend.

Men will avoid you; some will mock you so if you expect too much from men you will be very disappointed. However, keep men as closer as you can because you will need them to celebrate your testimony with you....

4. Be generous.

Many people became stingy because of adversity. They think of keeping the little they have to themselves. They forget that the time of adversity is a time of loss so instead of just losing, why can you not give. It is better to sow than to lose.

You will surely lose some weight, so give away the clothes you used to wear. I advise you not to sell everything, reserve some to use as gifts. Understand that you are like the dew of Harmon that was there even in dry weather, you give even when it is dry in your life.

Hallelujah!

Pastor C&S

02/03/2022

FROM ADVERSITY TO TESTIMONY (PART 3)

For a believer, adversity is a set up for God to show Himself up. In many instances, God allows us to go through challenges so that when He rescues us from the challenges, His glory will be seen.

Look at this guy who was born blind, **John 9:2-3 (KJV)** "And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him."

You see that, the guy in the above scripture was in adversity not because of sin but for God to show His glory and His power by delivering Him. Not all adversity comes as a result of sin. Some come as God's plan to get Himself the glory by lifting you out of adversity in the presence of the people. Make sure God gets His share when you move out of adversity. Do not kill your testimony by making or taking shortcuts. Allow God to do it for you.

God wants to meet our needs so that we can always depend on Him. Some needs are just a set up for God to release a supply. Your need is built up to a testimony...God has kept you in that need for a long time so that when He meets the need, the impact of the testimony becomes great. The bigger the challenge, the longer the challenge the more impactful the testimony will be. You can only enjoy the season of supply the same way you endured the season of adversity. Short adversity season will produce a small and short season of supply.

You are in a partnership with God. He gets His glory from your testimony. So it is for you to have a need and it is for God to meet the need. Do not try to help His side, do not try to fix your problems. Abraham tried it and ended up with a trickier situation. Give God an opportunity to get Himself glory from your life by getting you out of that situation. Remember God gets the glory from the testimonies of His people. Allow Him to time your supply such that when it happens, it has so much impact that those who hear and see it will only give praise to God.

We give God praise when we show resilience in the face of adversity and He gets more praise when He takes us out of it. So do not pray like you are trying to sweet talk God into helping you. He actually wants to help you more than you think. He gets all the glory when He rescues His people from trouble.

That is why Paul says in **1 Thessalonians 5:18 (KJV)** "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. "Always give thanks to God because He is with you in times of plenty and also in times of need. He knows what He is doing, He knows better than you. He knows the right time that you should bloom. You can be a late bloomer but definitely your blooming time will come.

Popcorn are put in one pot, same oil(anointing)and same heat but guess what they do not pop at the same time. You may not pop first but you will surely pop up as long as oil is still in the pot your time will come. I like that popcorn which pops the last, you will hear its sound shaking the pot, maybe that is you, we will hear your sound soon shaking the world. Let others pop it is fine. Celebrate them knowing that your turn is definitely coming.

HALLELUJAH!

PASTOR C&S

03/03/2022

FROM ADVERSITY TO TESTIMONY (PART 4)

Psalms 119:71 (KJV) "It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes."

Listen to the above Psalm of king David. The man is busy celebrating his affliction / adversity. How can someone celebrate adversity and say it is good that he has been afflicted? Is this really possible? Yes, it is possible, especially when you come out of it and looking at yourself being better than what you were. The benefits of adversity can only be seen by those who have gone through it. Those in adversity cannot understand that the adversity is helping them. They are pre-occupied with coming out of it.

Naturally, no one wants to be in adversity but I have learnt over the years the benefits associated with it can only be enjoyed when you are out of it. It is like an injection; no one can celebrate it when it is being administered but you will enjoy the healing afterwards. The furnace of adversity is what hardens and sharpens the arrow of your assignment. It will prune all human impurities; the process is however very painful and sometimes unbearable but possible.

I have been in the furnace of adversity. You die a million times, you give up a thousand times, you laugh at yourself, you blame yourself, you blame others ...but when all is finished, you will look at yourself with great pride, you will be shining like a diamond. All I can say to you is do not die in the furnace of adversity. Do not give up. That is your responsibility to hold on to hope...the Bible says "hope will not disappoint." **Romans 5:5**. At every passing minute, you are getting closer to the exit. Be strong!

The good thing about adversity is that it does not come to change anything except you. It does not change the environment, the circumstances but changes the person. God knows that when you change, everything changes, even your marriage, family changes...Many people pray that God will turn around their lives but they do not know that God has no other way of changing them except through adversity. You will think differently, act differently and work differently, that is what adversity seeks to achieve.

In other words, adversity is God's university of making His champions. It is God's change college. That is why David is saying that the affliction he went through was good for him. For some couples and families, it will take adversity for them to begin to realise how much they need each other...they are brought together by adversity. Some people have become serious believers because of adversity. Maybe if the marriage had not been sour, she would not have become the prayer warrior she is today.

Do you know king Nebuchadnezzar was changed into an animal and fed on grass for 7 years. The Bible said until he learnt and acknowledged that indeed THE MOST HIGH rules the Kingdom of men. Nebuchadnezzar thought that he was so great. He had built Babylon by his power and intelligence; he gave no glory to God. God then allowed him to go through adversity for seven

years. After the seven years, the king came back to his senses and he started praising the Lord.
Daniel 4:24-34.

Hallelujah!

Pastor C&S