

In the Midst:

A devotional with thought provoking questions

As we are walking through the health crisis of COVID 19 with restrictions all around us, what might we learn in the midst of uncertain and difficult times? Listen to what Paul wrote to the Roman church:

Romans 8:28 *“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”*

Q. Do you believe that God is able to work something good in the midst of the world crisis we are walking through?

Someone sent me this quote the other day: *“The church would never pray for this moment, but the church was made for this moment.”*

As believers, we have something inside of us that is greater than what is happening on the outside of us. It is our hope and faith in a God who is bigger than anything this world can throw at us. Therefore, in the midst of it we are able to walk in peace as we keep our eyes on Jesus!

Look what Jesus said to His disciples in:

John 16:33 *“These things I have spoken to you, that in ME you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulations; but be of good cheer I have overcome the world.”*

Look what Isaiah said to Israel:

Isaiah 43:1-2 *“But now, thus sayeth the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, and he who formed you, O Israel; ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are mine. 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall*

not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you. 3 For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, Your Saviour."

Can you see how that in each of these verses we are encouraged, no matter what we are going through,

- a. God is working something good in the midst of it.
- b. We can be of good cheer, for Jesus has already overcome the world, therefore we can be at peace.
- c. God is with you all the time.

So, no matter what we face as believers, God is aware of it. He is there with you in the midst of your situation, helping you through it, even if you do not yet see the answer, God has your back.

Let me give you an illustration from the Bible, ***Daniel 3:1-30***. Take a moment to read the story before you continue.

Think about what you just read:

Q. Did the three boys know that the statue was being built?

Q. Did they know what would be required of them?

Q. How would they have prepared for this day, a day that they could not have avoided in the kingdom they were living in?

The three boys, choose not to bow down, even though threatened with death in the horrible fire the king had prepared for those who would not bow.

Listen to their response when standing before the king:

Daniel 3:16-18 *"Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter (Bowing down with threats). 17 If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. 18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."*

Q. Did you hear what they said?

“He (God) is able to deliver us, but even if he doesn’t ...”

Q. How could they be so bold in this statement to the King who seemed to hold their lives in his hand?

I believe the answer is in their personal relationship with their God. This gave them great confidence!

Through the scriptures and through their relationship with their God, they knew that God was not limited by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar nor the blazing fire!

Listen to what they said: ***“our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. 18 But if not...”***

In the midst of the fire that they faced, they had to believe that:

- a. God is working something good in the midst of it.
- b. They were at peace because God was greater than the fire.
- c. They knew that God had their back, no matter the outcome.

As the story concludes, we see Jesus showing up in the middle of the fire. He literally had their backs! Afterwards, when they were examined, they did not even smell like smoke. How can that be, when the men who threw them in the fire were killed by the fire?

→ They kept their eyes on the Lord, and the Lord was there for them!

→ But this all started earlier, way earlier in their life, as they developed a habit of daily time with the Lord. This formed a confidence of God’s character in them, well before this event ever happened!

I’m challenged, as we walk through this crisis to ask, do you and I possess confidence in our heart, like the three boys proclaimed, like Paul wrote about, and like Isaiah experienced?

Continue the learning:

Q. What good might God be working in the world during this world crisis?

Q. What good might God be working in your personal life during this world crisis?

Q. Is your heart at peace at this time? Why or why not? What can you do to possess God's peace?

Q. Are you confident in your heart that God has your back, why or why not? Talk about your answer with God.

Q. Have you made a commitment to the Lord?

Acts 2:21 “And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.”

Remember that God is always working something good in the midst of our trials and difficulties. Keep your eyes fixed on Him!

Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

If you would like to someone to pray with you, please email info@onelifechurch.ca and someone will contact you.

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www.onelifechurch.ca