

God's Direction for Difficult Times Pt. 4

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Jan. 26

Pr. 3:5-9 *"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths..."*

God has purposes for the paths He chooses. Rev 4:11 *"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."*

Heb 11:6 *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe (pisteu'o: trust) that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."*

"Rewarder": from mistho'ō (to hire) and apodid'ōmi (to pay) Eph. 4:1

Since we're created for God's purposes and pleasure, and it's "impossible" to do this without Faith, Many of the paths He chooses are designed to develop our Faith. (James 1:2-5; Ro. 8:28,29)

Ex. 14 provides examples of the principles of this process.

- Number One: Remember Who Brought You Here: (Ps. 37:23; Heb. 13:5)
- Number Two: Be More Concerned With God's Glory Than Yours. (Ps. 115:1; Rev. 4:11)
- Number Three: Face The Crisis, But Focus On The Lord (Heb. 12:3)

Principle Four: Give God the time and room to work! Ex. 14:13-14 *"Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD... The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace."*

1. God created us for Relationship (partnership) with Him. Gen. 1:27-28

A. Sin destroys this relationship. Gen. 2:17; 3:8 (See Isaiah 59:1,2)

B. Christ's sacrificial death allows this to be restored. (Gen 3:15; Ro. 5:8; 6:23; 2 Cor. 5:21)

- 1) Personal Faith (in Christ) produces New life. Ro 5:1-2 *"being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:..."* (See also Jn 3:3; 16; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 4:4-6)
 - a) This (regeneration) is done by the Holy Spirit. Jn 3:3-8 *"Born of the Spirit"* (Gal. 4:4-6; Titus 3:5)
 - b) The presence of the Holy Spirit (within us) sets the stage for a lifelong battle. (Gal 5:16-17)

2. Our Responses to life's problems Produce (or reveals) a Partnership!

A. When we follow the promptings of God's Spirit, we partner with God! (Mt. 11:29; 1 Cor. 3:9)

1 Jn 1:7 *"if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship"*

- 1) This Gives God the room to work. Ro. 12:19 *"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place (Topos) unto wrath:... Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."*

B. When we follow the promptings of our flesh, We partner with Satan!

1 Cor 10:20 *"I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils"* (see 2 Cor 6:14-18)

Eph. 4:27 *"be angry and sin not, neither give place (topos) to the devil."* Topos: room or opportunity.

We need to learn to trust God (Pr. 3:5,6) because:

3. God's purposes and time-table may be very different from our own.

A. Is. 55:8 *"For My ways are not your ways"*

Pr. 21:1 *"The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it"*

- 1) How does God turn "rivers of waters"?

- a) Time and Pressure!

We need to give God the time to produce the pressure!

- 2) Our “Flesh” wants to use “our Pressure” to facilitate the change in others. (Manipulation)
The art of manipulation is very popular, particularly in the Media.

B. It's impossible to “*walk after the flesh*” and “understand the things of the Spirit”

Ro 8:5 “*For they that are after the flesh do mind* (phroneō: regard, focus on) *the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.*”

- 1) Peter was focused on his own agenda (flesh) at the Passover meal. (Jn. 13:7-8)

C. Our “Calmness” (during a crisis) Is Related To Our Confidence. Ex. 14:13-14

“Fear not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.”

- 1) Peace here is not God's peace (shālôm) *but their peace* (hārēsh) *to scratch, fabricate, devise!*
2) Contrast this with God's peace.

Isaiah 26:3,4 *“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusts in thee. Trust in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength”*

Isaiah 32:17 *“the work of righteousness shall be peace; (shālôm: safety, familiar friendship) and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance (beṭaḥ: refuge, safety, confidence) for ever.”*

Conclusion: Ex. 14:14 *“The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.”*

There's a significant difference between the “peace” (hārēsh) that comes from us manipulating or maneuvering to get things to go our way;

And God's peace (Shalom) “that passes all understanding” (Phil. 4:6) and comes when we truly trust God and allow him to direct us. (Pr. 3:5,6)

Which is more reliable?

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The Chinese Character for Crisis is made up of two characters: wēi & jī
The “wēi” syllable means Danger and the jī of means “incipient moment; crucial point (when something begins or changes).”

Put them together and a "crisis" is literally a defining moment (opportunity) that comes in the presence of a Difficult or dangerous situation.”



Application: John 10:27

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”

God will often lead us into difficult circumstances so that we can develop and deepen our faith.

It's important in such times to remember:

- 1) He Brought You Here on Purpose and for His purposes: (Ps. 37:23; Ro. 8:28,29)
- 2) Be More Concerned With God's Glory Than Yours. (Ps. 115:1; John 12:28)
- 3) Face The Problem, But Focus On The Lord (2 Cor 3:18; Hebrews 12:1,2)
- 4) Give God the Time and Room to Work. (Ro. 8:28,29; James 1:2-5; Is. 40:31)