

HOPE IN CRISIS

Prepare for Eternity

A crises can actually help us to rearrange our priorities in life.

“For what does it profit a person if he/she gains the whole world, yet loses his/her own soul? Or what shall a person give in exchange for their soul?” - Matthew 16:26

Your soul is your most precious possession and it is eternal. So are the souls of your loved ones. As long as we know that we have a future home in Heaven, and will be reunited with those we love forever, losing the temporary things of this life will not seem so catastrophic.

In Jesus, even death loses its sting, because when we entrust Him with our souls, He promises that we shall live again. In fact, for the one who loves Jesus, *“To be absent from the body is to be with the Lord.” - (2 Corinthians 5:8)*

The quickest way to heal through the stages of grief and loss is to look ahead. What a relief to know that this life is not all there is! God has promised

us the best is yet to come. In a world where nothing lasts forever, we can plant our feet on the rock-solid promises of the eternal God of the Bible, who loves us and gave Himself for us.

Only in Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, can we face the trials of life in triumphant anticipation of future good. As the songwriter so rightly expressed:

*“Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living
Just because He lives!”*

(Bill and Gloria Gaither)

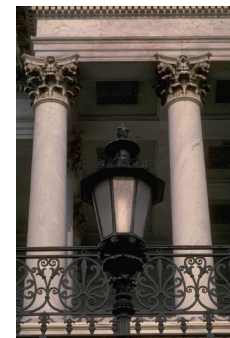
Jesus invites you today to: *“Cast you all your cares upon Him because He cares continuously for you.” – 1 Peter 5:7*

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GOD IS OUR REFUGE
AND STRENGTH, A
VERY PRESENT

HELP IN TIMES OF TROUBLE



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Does God Care?

In times of crisis it is normal to grope for God's presence and ask, "How do I know He cares?"

Take God at His Word - (Psalm 46:1)

Since we don't doubt the kind words of family and friends during a time of crisis, it is important to attribute the same sincerity to God. The Bible is filled with both assurance and evidence that God loves us and has power to help in time of need.

Listen to Others - (Romans 10:12)

God doesn't have favorites. What He has done for others, He will do for anyone who trusts Him. Read the Bible and other true accounts of God's intervention, and talk to others who have experienced God's help.

Thank Him for the Cross - (John 15:13)

The fact that Jesus died on the cross to pay our individual debts of sin, is tangible proof His love is not mere words. The cross was the ultimate demonstration that God wants us to possess eternal life, of which this life is

merely the start. Jesus said, "*Greater love has no one than this: that a man lay down his life for his friends.*" It is only fair that if we want God to acknowledge our sufferings that we acknowledge His in our behalf.

Perhaps you never took it to heart before. Now is the time. Confessing your sins and thanking Jesus for the payment of his precious blood on your behalf is the Door that opens the blessings of heaven.

Get Alone with God - (Philippians 4:6, 7)

Prayer is an amazing gift from God. Now that the prayer lines are open, the Lord invites us to pray in His name and, "*Come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need*" - (Hebrews 4:16).

Prayer is an exchange of our weakness for God's peace, power, and wisdom. It is through answered prayer that you will realize God's nearness.

Borrow Strength - (Isaiah 40:28-31)

It is true there are stages of healing through which we all must pass, but we are in charge of how quickly (or slowly) we pass through them. It is important to realize that our children will learn how to

handle crisis by watching their parents. The worst thing we can do is teach them that tragedy, injustice or loss, is a reason for becoming bitter, angry, and victimized for life. God promises to infuse us with His supernatural strength so that we can move forward with courage and dignity. Take Him up on it.

Know Your Inheritance - (Romans 8:28)

The Bible is filled with "*exceedingly great and precious promises*" to those who trust in Jesus. These are genuine 'inheritance papers' guaranteed to you from God Himself. They can never be stolen from you. Treasure them.

One of the greatest promises from God is that "*all things work together for good to those who love God ...*" No insurance company in the world has a promise like this. God will take every trial that enters your life and bring good out of it. It may not happen overnight, but it will happen.

These promises are 'lights at the end of the tunnel' for you and will produce hope from despair. The circumstances of life that threaten to overwhelm us are not too hard for God.