

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 developed 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)