

# Praise you in the Storms

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Jan 10<sup>th</sup> 2021

REFLECTION: 1 Tim. 4 and 2 Tim 3 both warn of “perilous times” we would face.

It seems that we find ourselves in such times today! For example:

- If you embrace / affirm that gender is fluid, you’re enlightened. *But if you believe that gender is biological/binary, (Gen. 1:27; Mt. 19:4) You’re a dangerous lunatic!*
  - \*Multiple teachers have been fired over misgendering students.
  - Congress just passed rules to eliminate gender specific language.
- You can burn the American Flag with impunity...*but are arrested for destroying a BLM banner.*
- If you questioned the validity of the 2016 election, you’re a Patriot;  
*But If you question the validity of the 2020 election, you’re an unamerican Traitor!*
- If your “faith” has no influence on your personal, practical professional and political actions, you’re praised and promoted; *But if your faith influences your actions/attitudes, You’re considered radical and unfit to serve in public office!*

In a society that’s lost its bearings, (Moral Compass), it’s critical that we don’t lose ours! Ps 11  
That’s why we’ve been focusing on the priorities and passions of our Lord as reflected in the Great Commission (Mt 28:18-20) and the Great Commandment. (Mt 22:37-39)

These provide eternal coordinates with which we can plot a steady course through life’s storms.

## DIRECTION:

### 1. Satan seeks to use life’s challenges to Distract, Deceive, and Disillusion us.

#### A. This tends to:

- 1) Destroy our Hope. Pr 13:12 *“Hope deferred makes the heart sick.”*  
Job 17:15 *“where is now my hope? ..., who shall see it?”*
- 2) Distance us from God. Mt 27:46; Ps 22:1 *“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?  
Why art thou so far from helping me?”*

#### B. This “Distance”

##### 1) Isolates us from God’s:

- a) Power: (1 Jn 4:4; Phil. 4:13)
- b) Protection: (Ps 91; Pr 18:10 *“The name of the LORD is a strong tower:”*)
- c) Provision: (Mt 6:25-34; Phil. 4:19)
- d) Purposes: (Rev. 4:11; Jer. 29:11)

- 2) Leaves us vulnerable to “Satan’s devices”! 1 Pt 5:8; 2 Cor 2:11 *“Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”* No’ema: purposes, disposition.

## 2. God seeks to use the same challenges to:

### A. Draw us to himself where He can:

- 1) Redeem our **Past**. (Is. 61:1-3) *"beauty out of ashes, joy out of mourning"*
- 2) Restore our **Hope** (Jer. 29:11; Ps 42:5) *"Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance."*
- 3) Reinforce our **Faith** 1 Pt 5:9 *"whom resist steadfastly in the faith..."*  
(Heb. 11:32-23; 1 Jn. 4:2-4)

### Conclusion: In our storms (disappointments) Jesus:

- 1) **Understands** us. Is. 53:3 *"a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief"* (Heb. 4:15; 7:26)
- 2) **Comes** to us. (Mt 14:22-27; Acts 27:23,24; Isaiah 43:1-4)
- 3) Invites us to come to **Him!** (Mt 14:28,29; Heb. 4:16; 7:25)
- 4) Is there to catch us when we fall! Mt 14:30,31; Jude 24,25  
*Since both Satan and God are at work in the midst of the storms of life;  
It's important that we stay anchored to Christ, or we'll end up "Shipwrecked"*  
*1 Tim, 1:17-20; Heb. 6:17-19*

### Application: In our present storms Jesus: Understands us; Comes to Us; Invites us to Come to (Join) Him; And even picks us up when we fall!

- 1) What "Boat" are you trusting in?
  - 2) Are you willing to jump out in order to "Walk with Jesus"?
  - 3) God's at work in our storms! Ro. 8:28,29 Will you walk and work with Him?
- Jn 14:27 *"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you.  
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."*
- Jn 16:33 *"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall  
have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."*  
*"Jesus draw me ever nearer; As I labor through the storm.  
You have called me to this passage, And I'll follow, though I'm worn.  
May this journey bring a blessing, May I rise on wings of faith;  
And at the end of my heart's testing, With Your likeness let me wake.*
- "Jesus guide me through the tempest; Keep my spirit staid and sure.  
When the midnight meets the morning, Let me love You even more.  
Let the treasures of the trial; Form within me as I go –  
And at the end of this long passage, Let me leave them at Your throne."*
- Keith Getty / Margaret Ellen Becker