



Manifesting Faith In Difficult Times

"But his wife said unto him, If the LORD were pleased to kill us, he would not have received a burnt offering and a meat offering at our hands, neither would he have shewed us all these things, nor would as at this time have told us such things as these" (Judges 13:23)

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In life we pass through varying situations from good to bad. Often, we welcome and relish the good times, but seems to be at loss in the bad ones, which sometimes make us feel as helpless victims in a stormy sea. A popular song brings out the importance of 'holding' faith in difficult times in these words - **"If all were easy, if all were bright, where would the cross be, where would the fight? But in the hard places, God provides to you chances of proving what He can do"**.

In the Bible, Jesus calmed stormy seas (Luke 8:22-26), and at another occasion He walked on the stormy sea (Matthew 14:22-34) - both times demonstrating victory and dominion over the circumstances of life.

The fact of the matter is that we all have a lively enemy (the devil), who will relentlessly do everything to frustrate and ruin our joys, peace and, if possible lives. The Bible clearly points out that **"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh"** (2 Corinthians 10:3). That is why Jesus, towards the end of His earthly ministry admonished His disciples saying "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"** (John 16:33).

The truth is that Jesus has given every Christian, the victory that He won over the devil, and we have a choice to maintain that victory by faith. Being given the victory, does not insulate us from the realities of spiritual warfares, but it guarantees for us ultimate victory by **FAITH** - an acronym for **F**orsaking **A**ll, **I** Trust **H**im.

When God seems far, act like Job "Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: 9 On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: 10 But he

"For I know that my redeemer liveth..." (Job 19:25).

knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. 11 My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined. 12 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food" (Job 23:8-12). Note how his faith shined in dark times **"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: 26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: 27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me"** (Job 19:25-27).

Isaiah determined to seek till he 'finds' God **"Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples. 17 And I will wait upon the LORD, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him. 18 Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion"** (Isaiah 8:16-18). Be assured that **"For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. 8 He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is mine adversary? let him come near to me. 9 Behold, the Lord GOD will help me; who is he that shall condemn me? lo, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up. 10 Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God. 11 Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow"** (Isaiah 50:7-11). When fear knocks respond in faith like Manoah's wife, and the danger will give way to victory (Judges 13:22-24).