**Jesus Hear My Cry**

**By Pastor Fee Soliven**

**2 Timothy 1:3-9**

**Sunday Morning**

**February 24, 2019**

**2 Timothy 1:3-9**

3 I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, 4 greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy,

5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. 6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began…

**Because we live in a fallen world, storms are a part of life, and they come in three different forms: physical, emotional, and spiritual.**

Saints, it has been like this ever since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. Given that there is no escape from pain and trouble, our only alternative is to adjust to them.

If we don’t learn how to respond and endure, we’ll be defeated by them and forfeit the blessings God has for us. But if we’ll learn how to respond as the Lord desires, we’ll come out of our storms victorious and stronger as a result.

**James 1:2-4**

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Saints, Paul wrote to Timothy because he was facing a storm. As a young pastor, he was dealing with various problems in the church at Ephesus and needed some encouragement and direction. Paul advised him to

**2 Timothy 1:6**

“kindle afresh the gift of God” that was in him…

In the face of adversity, Timothy was becoming discouraged, and his spiritual zeal was waning.

Saints, the same thing happens to us when our Christian life starts to grow cold. Perhaps it begins with doubts about the truths of God’s Word, when at one time we would have boldly defended them.

Then we withdraw, refusing to admit anything is wrong, but in our hearts and minds we know we are drifting from the Lord. Or maybe the coldness is simply the result of troubles and heartaches that cause us to grow weak and lose our passion for God

**Matthew 24:12-14**

12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Saints, some of the signs of a dwindling fire in our spiritual lives are a loss of joy and hope, not reading the Bible as much as before, and a lack of enthusiasm for prayer. In addition, we may begin listening to and relying on the advice of people who are not well-versed in Scripture.

Because Paul was very familiar with persecution, heartache, and trouble, he understood how Timothy felt. He offered him this sound advice:

**2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV Version)**

“For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline”

Saints, we have this same assurance today when we feel overwhelmed by the storms of life. But if we give in to fear, we can expect the following results:

**Responding to Life’s Storms with Fear**

**1. It Stifles our capacity to think and Act Wisely**

Then we’ll begin to yield to other people’s ideas about what we should do.

**Philippians 4:6-7**

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

**2. It causes us to be Indecisive**

Fearing what might happen, we won’t be able to make up our minds on a course of action.

**2 Timothy 3:16**

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness…”

**2 Corinthians 3:5**

“Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God…”

**Romans 15:13**

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

**3. It Diminishes our Capacity to be Productive**

**2 Corinthians 3:5**

“Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God…”

**Proverbs 11:30**

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise”

**4. It Undermines a sense of Self-Confidence**

**Isaiah 41:10**

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

**1 John 4:18**

“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.”

Saints, if we don’t know how to respond, we’ll question whether we’re truly listening to God and become uncertain regarding what’s right and wrong.

**5. We are Tormented by our Emotions**

As we vacillate emotionally, we’ll become weaker instead of growing stronger in the storm.

**2 Corinthians 10:5**

“We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ…”

**Philippians 4:6-8**

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Saints, in desperation, we may ask for other people’s guidance. However, our first response should be to seek understanding from God regarding what is happening in our lives. This is why our personal, private time with the Lord is our first priority.

**Luke 12:31-32**

31 But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. 32 Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

That’s where we are more sensitive to His purposes and come away emotionally settled.

**Psalm 119:1-11**

1 Blessed are the undefiled in the way, Who walk in the law of the LORD! 2 Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart! 3 They also do no iniquity; They walk in His ways.

4 You have commanded us To keep Your precepts diligently. 5 Oh, that my ways were directed To keep Your statutes! 6 Then I would not be ashamed, When I look into all Your commandments. 7 I will praise You with uprightness of heart, When I learn Your righteous judgments. 8 I will keep Your statutes; Oh, do not forsake me utterly!

9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. 10 With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! 11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!

**We May Panic Because of Hurt and Disappointment**

**We could become Enslaved by Feelings of Disappointment**

Saints, if we are afraid to trust in the Lord, we may begin to look for an alternate solution instead of continuing in prayer and reading God’s Word.

But nothing we face is too difficult for the Lord, and sometimes He allows these situations in our lives to grow us up and increase our trust in Him. Jesus is our Prince of Peace, but He’s also a reason for conflict in our relationships with those who don’t believe in Him.

**God-Given Resources for Dealing with the Storms of Our Life**

**Power**

Every believer receives the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation. He comes to seal us as children of God and empower us to live a godly life.

**Luke 24:49**

“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

Therefore Saints, when troubles and suffering come, we have His divine strength to help us face and endure them in a manner that glorifies Him. We also have the power of God’s Word. Our first response to trials should be to open the Bible and find out what God has said.

**Isaiah 41:10**

“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

When we focus our attention on the Lord and His promises, it’s like throwing wood on the fire of our spiritual lives, enabling us to face whatever challenges come our way.

**Love**

Storms may leave us feeling discouraged and unloved, but when we walk in the spirit of God, we have His love in our hearts. If other people fail us, we need to remember that God’s love for us never ends. In addition, this love goes two ways. It enables us to love Him no matter what He allows in our lives.

**Romans 8:38-39**

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Discipline**

Being self-controlled and having a sound mind result in a disciplined life that stands unmoved even in the face of difficulties, troubles, and conflict.

It’s a life committed to God, which will not waver in the storms or the winds of false doctrine. When we are grounded in Him, He makes us adequate to handle every situation.

**Colossians 2:6-7**

6 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

Saints, although storms have many origins, there is only one answer for all of them. When everything around us comes unglued and falls apart, we must go to our knees in the Word of God, trusting Him to give us a sense of assurance and boldness to stand firm in obedience.

A disciplined life that is settled in God’s Word, open to His work within us, and made adequate in the Holy Spirit’s love and power is immovable in the storms of life. Amen

**In Closing:**

1. Where do you go for help when storms come into your life?

2. Are prayer and the Word of God your first response, or do you turn to other sources for help?

3. What role does fear or timidity play in your response to trouble?

4. What has been the outcome when you have responded in fear?

**Let's Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace." '**