



## HOW TO OVERCOME TURBULENT TIMES (PART 1)

How can we overcome turbulent times in these last days? How can people be overcomers of the world that has been taken over by the powers of Satan? Demon powers are attacking every mind that has allowed it to gain entry.

Troubles and trials are facts of life for everyone including families, nations and kingdoms. The reasons for all these universal chaos are due to the imperfection of the world. This peacelessness and troubles will continue and remain common experience for all the inhabitants of the world until Jesus, the Prince of Peace arrives in glory.

The universal problems of today have no solution forthcoming from any direction. Neither the intellectuals nor the wise men of this world have any idea on how to get out of these troubles. They are confused, frustrated and fed up just as the Bible says that there is no peace for the wicked (Isaiah 48:22). How can there be peace in the world when it has been ruined with wickedness?

Many people resort to protests, demonstrations and destruction of properties in some nations, but rather than improving the situation, it has gotten worse. 2 Chronicles 15:3-5 is a perfect description of the situation today.

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2 *Chronicles 15:3-5*

3 *For a long time Israel has been without the true God, without a teaching priest, and without law;*

4 *but when in their trouble they turned to the LORD God of Israel, and sought Him, He was found by them.*

5 *And in those times there was no peace to the one who went out, nor to the one who came in, but great turmoil was on all the inhabitants of the lands.*

If you are living without the true God in your life, you will be a peaceless person, and your family in chaos. There is absolutely no peace anywhere because many prefer to make do without the knowledge of the Living God. Turn to the Living God to receive answers to your problems (2 Chronicles 15:4).

Some people have resorted to ending their lives to solve their problems. Doing so does not solve the problem but rather it adds to it. Some believers have slackened by not attending church service on Sundays anymore. They give excuses on why they prefer to worship God at home. Lazing at home will give rise to sin just as King David did. Some believers go to church as and when they feel like.

People treasure falsehood and dishonesty, iniquity and transgressions to godliness and righteousness. They like to go where they will be told what they want to hear and not what God desires them to hear. This is evident when they complain that the message is too strong for them and that it is not of God. They forget that though God is merciful, yet He is also a God of judgement. You can examine yourself with this question, "Do you prefer sin to righteousness and godliness?"

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The wicked activities of the evil one have affected many Christians but Jesus declared, *“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world”* (John 16:33). The great consolation for believers is that the Great Shepherd knows all about these trials.

Jesus declared, *“See that you are not troubled, for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet”* (Mark 13:7). But the prospect for all those who do not know the Lord is bleak. Trials will come, but remember that He that is in you is greater than he that is in the world.

Doom and gloom fills all of the world, but a child of God should not be troubled by the circumstance around him or her. God will never leave or forsake those who belong to Him (1 Samuel 12:22). A child of God is calm and rests in the Lord, recognizing that the Lord will take care of His own.

The Lord knows that, *“We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed”* (2 Corinthians 4:8-9). Regardless of what we go through, the Lord is ever present to help us and see us through. You may be knocked down, but know that you are not knocked out.

Even though Christians face temptations, depression, distress, oppression, persecution, famine and scarcity, we are kept by the Spirit of faith which we possess. Christians are in a better position than the unbelievers because they do not have Jesus to deliver them from their troubles.

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As Christians, we live with an edge and merit over the non-believers. Our salvation and assurance of our relationship is with the Lord Jesus Christ. This affords us the companionship of the Spirit of God, and the ability to keep our head above the troubled waters to live victoriously and triumphantly. It is sad to see many believers not realizing their status in Christ and allowing persecutions and difficulties to weaken them. They follow the language of the world to say that they are “stressed out”. If we as Christians follow what the world is saying, then what is our testimony of having embraced Jesus as our Lord? Believers need to remember what the Word of God says in Luke 10:19, *“Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”*

It is time for believers to rise up in faith to overcome turbulent times. In times of great economic shake up, banks may be going bust, many people may be losing their life savings, yet we are to trust the Lord. Companies may become bankrupt and unemployment may be widespread or rife, but we must trust our Jehovah Jireh. Do not fall into the trap of complaining and murmuring like the Israelites did in the wilderness.

Some people may resort to suicide because they think that there is nothing to live for. We, as children of God must put our trust and confidence in the Lord and know that what we suffer today in the world are but light afflictions.

*2 Corinthians 4:17-18*

*17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,*

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18 *while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

Trouble, suffering and calamity are tonics for Christians; therefore, they remind us of the love and power of God. Do not let the words, "I cannot take it anymore" come out from your mouth. Our God is ever ready and willing to help all of us who trust in Him.

When we continue to harden our hearts during turbulent times, it means that we are prolonging our sufferings and exposing ourselves to untold hardship in the hands of the devil. Learn to praise the Lord in hard times. Complaining will keep you longer in the wilderness. The result of the Israelites complaining in the wilderness was that it took them forty years instead of forty days to reach their Promised Land. Jesus only took forty days to come out from His wilderness journey.

The wise will draw closer to God in their sufferings and make the Lord his or her refuge. The faith that we receive from God is to help us to be sustained in our trying moments. Beloved, a sailor who has not gone through the test of troubled seas will not make a good sailor. He who kneels before the Almighty God can stand against all powers of darkness that tries to come against him.

The fall of the first man Adam, spelt doom for man. Adam passed the doom to subsequent generations. Problems of various forms: poverty, oppression, unemployment, insecurity, disease, famine etc. came as a result. But the second Adam, the Man, Jesus Christ, set us free by the priceless cruel death on the cross of Calvary and declared that, "*It is finished.*" (John 19:30).

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A time is coming when Christians' suffering of pain and anguish on earth will be over, and we will be ushered into a blissful and blessed eternity in the presence of the Almighty God. It is a place where there will be NO more sorrow, pain, sickness or weeping. In God's presence, there is joy and peace forevermore. In comparison with the impending glory, the suffering of the present time is nothing. Beloved saints of God, let us not lose heart at all because Jesus has brought joy to wipe away our tears, peace to calm our troubled souls, happiness to eliminate our sorrows and strength in the time of weakness. The downfall of a man is not the end of his life. The righteous may fall seven times, but he will rise again.

Jesus has overcome the world for us. Therefore, cheer up saints of God, for Jesus, the Son of the Living God is our Lord and Saviour. The Lord has overcome and we who abide in Him will also overcome. Do not be a flaky Christian. Be a real Christian who will follow the Lord and worship Him wholeheartedly. May the Lord God Almighty be with us as we persevere for His glory.

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