

When Crisis Comes

March 4, 2018

1. **Remember God's Sovereignty** - *nothing happens to you outside of God's immediate inspection and absolute control.*

Psalm 139:1-6 ESV To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

1 **O LORD, you have searched me and known me!**

2 **You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.**

3 **You search out** (*zarah - scatter, winnow, sift, NASB "scrutinize"*) **my path** and my lying down and **are acquainted** (*NASB "intimately acquainted")* **with all my ways.**

4 **Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.**

5 **You hem** (*tsuwr - confine, secure, shut in, enclose*) **me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.**

6 **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.**

Psalm 37:23-24 NASB

23 **The steps of a man are established** (*kuwn - to be securely determined*) **by the LORD, And He delights** (*chaphets - have pleasure in, to be pleased to do*) **in his way.**

24 **When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong, Because the LORD is the One who holds his hand.**

2. **Find your peace in God's comfort and companionship** - *our flesh will always seek for comfort, relief or escape in the distractions, amusements, pleasures or vices of the world.*

"Whatever your heart clings to and confides in, that is really your God, your functional savior."

— Martin Luther

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 ESV

3 **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort** (*paraklēsis - a calling near consolation, solace, encouragement*),

4 **who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.**

5 **For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.**

Isaiah 43:1-2 ESV

1 **But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.**

2 **When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.**

3. **Fix your eyes on Jesus** - *only Jesus keeps our heart free from fear.*

2 Chronicles 20:12 ESV [King Jehoshaphat praying when the Moabites and Ammonites came against Judah.]

12 **O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."**

Matthew 14:24-32 ESV

24 but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them.

25 And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea.

26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear.

27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

28 And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.

30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me."

31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

Acts 7:54-60 ESV

54 Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him.

55 But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

56 And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

57 But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him.

58 Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

60 And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

4. **Don't try to understand** - *trying to understand what only God can see and know brings great confusion and deadly doubt.*

Psalm 73:2-3 NASB

2 But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling, my steps had almost slipped.

3 For I was envious of the arrogant As I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

Psalm 73:12-14 NASB

12 Behold, these are the wicked; And always at ease, they have increased in wealth.

13 Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and washed my hands in innocence;

14 For I have been stricken all day long and chastened every morning.

Psalm 73:16-17 NASB

16 When I pondered to understand this, it was troublesome in my sight

17 Until I came into the sanctuary of God; Then I perceived their end.

Psalm 73:21-22 NASB

21 When my heart was embittered and I was pierced within,

22 Then I was senseless and ignorant; I was like a beast before You.

5. **Meditate on the Word of God** - *in suffering and pain, the Word of God will speak to you, like no one and nothing else can, exactly what you need to persevere and stay strong.*

Proverbs 1:32-33 ESV

32 For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency (*shalvah - ease, prosperity*) of fools destroys them;

33 but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster."

Proverbs 4:5-8 ESV

5 Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth.

6 Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you.

7 The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight.

8 Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her.

Proverbs 6:21-23 ESV

21 Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck.

22 When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you.

23 For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life.

"The Bible is alive; it speaks to me. It has feet; it runs after me. It has hands; it lays hold of me!"

—Martin Luther

6. **Wait on the Lord** - *don't do anything of our own initiative and effort, it will only bring more confusion and trouble.*

2 Chronicles 16:7-9 NASB

7 At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, "Because you have relied on the king of Aram and have not relied on the LORD your God, therefore the army of the king of Aram has escaped out of your hand.

8 "Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubim an immense army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet because you relied on the LORD, He delivered them into your hand.

9 "For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars."

Psalms 37:1-9 ESV Of David.

1 Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!

2 For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.

3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.

4 Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.

6 He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.

7 Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!

8 Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.

9 For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.

7. **Pray without ceasing** - *when we pray, we are running to and abiding in the fortress and the high tower of His presence.*

Psalm 32:6-7 NASB

6 Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found; Surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him.

7 You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah.

Psalm 27:1-6 ESV Of David.

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

3 Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

4 One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

5 For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

6 And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

Psalm 91:1-10 ESV

8. **Earthly riches lost can't compare to spiritual treasures found** - *don't focus on what is lost but focus on what is found.*

Philippians 3:7-8 CSB

7 But everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a loss because of Christ.

8 More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them as dung, so that I may gain Christ

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 ESV

16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.