

2 Timothy 3:1-5; January 24, 2021

Surviving Confusing Times

JD Farag

PASTOR JD: All right, good morning and welcome, apologize for the late start with the livestream. We're so glad that you're joining with us for our second service, which is our verse-by-verse teaching through the Bible where we're currently in the book of 2 Timothy. Today, Lord willing, we're gonna finish Chapter 3 and our text will be verses 14 through 17 of 2 Timothy, Chapter 3.

So we'll invite you at this time, if you're not already there, to turn there. And while you're doing that, I do wanna mention for the benefit of those who were not with us for our first service Prophecy Update, this is more applicable for those that are watching online, I need to update you on the update again.

By God's grace, our team, our amazing team really, has secured the ability to simultaneously livestream on our new website at JDFarag.org. In fact, right now this is being livestreamed on JDFarag.org and simultaneously is also being livestreamed on YouTube and also on Facebook. We might also do Instagram yet future. But what we're doing now is, and this is only for the Prophecy Update, we're beginning the update here on YouTube and other social media platforms and will livestream those teachings, those videos.

You can watch them at their regular times, but with the Prophecy Update, we're going to end the Prophecy Update, and direct you to continue watching it at JDFarag.org. Actually, we'd encourage you to just start there so you don't have the interruption. And if you start watching the Prophecy Update livestream at JDFarag.org, it will be seamless. But if you're watching it live on social media, chief of which is YouTube, it will end after the introduction and maybe a brief explanation about what the Prophecy Update is all about.

Now we're going to continue to livestream on YouTube and Facebook and other social media platforms every week at this same time, however, again just the Prophecy Update, it will not be the full Prophecy Update, which we livestream at our first service at 9:00 AM Hawaii time. It's our hope that instead of YouTube, you will go directly to our new site JDFarag.org as we will livestream the complete, uncensored update as well as all of the teachings as well.

Now this is important, just hang in there with me. We very much appreciate your patience with us and more importantly, your prayers for us as we continue building this site. Lord willing, we intend to remain on YouTube and other social media platforms as long as we can to reach as many as we can. However, we will never cave or compromise the truth of our content, and if our accounts get terminated, so be it. We're ready for it.

[Applause]

Neh, neh, neh, neh, neh.

I just had to get that last one in there. You're very welcome.

Now again, please note that is for the Prophecy Update. This second service livestream will be contiguous on YouTube for obvious reasons. The Prophecy Update content is such that it has been censored and so that's why we're doing this this way. All right, let's get into the word, 2 Timothy, Chapter 3, beginning in verse 14, and we'll finish the chapter, Lord willing, today in verse 17. I'll ask those of you that are here, if you're able, to stand, if not, where you're seated is fine; you can follow along as I read.

The Apostle Paul is writing, and by the Holy Spirit says verse 14 to Timothy, "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of because you know those from whom you learned it and, verse 15, how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

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"All scripture, verse 16, is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." Let's pray; if you would, please join with me.

Thank you, Lord, for Your Word and this portion that we have before us today. Lord, we readily admit and humbly confess that unless the Holy Spirit helps us to focus our attention and give You our undivided attention, that our minds are gonna be prone to wander and be distracted and think about other things that we end up missing what it is that You desire to minister to us. And I don't think there's a one of us here that wants that.

So Lord, will You get our attention by the Holy Spirit, and then once You get our attention, will You hold our attention so that we can hear You speak into our lives in that still, small voice of the Holy Spirit that we so desperately need to hear in these times that we're living in? So Lord, speak; your servants are listening. We ask in Jesus' name, Amen and amen.

You can be seated. Thank you. So I want to talk with you today about really the only way that it is that we, as Christians, can have any hope of ever surviving, let alone thriving in these confusing times that we're living in. Would you agree that it's getting really weird and confusing, and can I use this Word? I know it's so '80s, but it's really gnarly; it's getting gnarly. Things are just bizarre.

At the beginning of this chapter, the Apostle Paul warned Timothy about perilous times in the last days, terrible times, confusing times. And he did so, so as to both steady and ready Timothy because of his love for him who he saw as a son. He loved him so much and he wanted to warn him. He wanted to prepare him and so he starts off with that ominous list. We read it, we studied it: 19 things that would mark the last days when perilous times come.

Now here we are at the end of the chapter, and it seems the Holy Spirit deemed it necessary to inspire Paul to take it to the next level, if you will, and write specifically about "the how." In other words, "the how" of the Holy Spirit that empowers us to do "the what" of the Holy Word? That's the only way "how." God has given us the Holy Spirit, the power of the Holy Spirit to live a holy life, "Be ye holy as he is Holy."

Now at first read, you read that and you think, "What?" "I'm to be holy as He is Holy? How am I going to do that?" Oh, the Holy Spirit. I know this is gonna seem maybe like an oversimplification, but here's how it works: Holy Spirit, holy life, that's how.

And that's "the how" of the Holy Spirit to survive the perilous times that we are even now in today, and it's getting worse, would you agree? I would argue that what Paul wrote to Timothy then has profound implications for us now in these times, so much so that what hangs in the balance is whether or not a Christian will be shaken and riddled with fear and doubt, or stand strong in the faith, immovable, unshakable. That's what's in the balance.

You have to understand that God wants us to stand strong. He doesn't want us to be moved or shaken, to veer off or move away from the solid foundation of the Holy Scriptures. And that's why he writes what he writes to Timothy. What follows are to house, as it were, when it comes to how we can remain steadfast and immovable, sound, strong, unshakable in the face of what lies ahead.

And you may not want to hear this; I know I don't like to say this, but it's true. It's gonna get worse. It's gonna get worse. Between now and the rapture, it's gonna get worse. The first one is in verses 14 and 15, and in a word, it's "continue," keyword. Highlight, underline, bold, italics, yellow-fluorescent highlight, green-fluorescent underline, blue if you want, if you like that color better.

Here Paul exhorts Timothy to continue, the emphasis on "continue," stay the course. Continue in, press on in what he had learned and what he was convinced of. Why? Because he knew from whom he had learned it.

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Remember now, Paul knows that his days were numbered. It's just a matter of time before he is beheaded and martyred for his faith in Jesus Christ, and Timothy knows it too. And you got to know, especially because of the personality that it seems that Timothy had, he was timid, shy, bashful. He was an introvert, not an extrovert. He was easily intimidated and may be prone to become fearful.

And Timothy needs this assurance from Paul. It's almost like Paul is saying, "Timothy, I know you're not gonna have me much longer, so I'm writing you this letter. You can do this. Here's what's coming. And you're not gonna have me when it does come. But you don't need me; you know why? Because from when you were a child, you knew the Holy Scriptures and you were convinced because of them unto salvation by faith, through faith in Jesus Christ. Now all you gotta do, Timothy, to stand in the face of what's coming is just continue on, stay on course, don't veer, don't be moved, don't be shaken.

I find it interesting that he would refer to Timothy's childhood. Paul met Timothy in Lystra, and it does seem from the text that Timothy was really young at the time, perhaps a teenager. Now when he writes to Timothy and says, "Don't let anybody intimidate you or look down on you because you're young, because of your youth," don't imagine him to be 15 or 16. I'm pretty sure he had his driver's license by then. It's believed that he was probably maybe close to 30 years old, but that was still considered to be young, especially in light of the fact that there were probably many older people there in that church that he pastored in Ephesus.

So the question is: Why is Paul waxing sentimental about Timothy's childhood? Why does he bring it up? I believe that he does so because he wants to remind Timothy of his solid foundation. He's rock solid. Timothy, from when you were a child -- you know his mom was a Jew, his dad a Greek, but his grandmother too, strong in the faith. Timothy, you had good upbringing. You were brought up in the ways of the Lord, the fear and the admonition of the Lord, and the Word of the Lord. All you have to do is just continue. It's that simple. Just in other words, can I say it like this for lack of a better way of saying it, just keep doing what you're doing. You're doing great, just continue doing it. That's all you gotta do, just continue.

We have a problem. "We do?" "Yeah." "You gonna tell us what it is?" "Of course I am, you don't even have to ask; I'm gonna tell you anyway." If you were to ask me what I thought was one of the most subtle dangers in the Christian's life, this would have to be at the top of the list, namely, that of moving from, veering off, dare I say, losing confidence in the Word of God. It's very subtle.

And when that happens, it renders the unsuspecting Christian an easy prey for the enemy. And you know what's sad? Many a Christian crashes in the confusion that comes packaged with the perilous and contradicting circumstances in these last days. We're seeing it play out right before our very eyes. You look at what's happening in the world around us, and your first response, your reaction is to become fearful, to become confused.

Who's the author of confusion? The enemy. He wants to confuse and accuse. And it's rampant I'm sorry to say, and it's caused many a Christian to lose confidence in the Holy Word of God because look what's happening. I mean, come on! And it shakes you and it moves you from the rock-solid foundation of the Word of God.

And it's not just in the pew; it's in the pulpit, it's in the pulpit. I received a text after first service from someone who used to be a part of our fellowship here, they moved to the mainland, and she just texted me after the Prophecy Update. And she said, "You know, we went to our new church today." And she said, "We now know why the online members are so grateful because the sermon we heard could have been preached about 20 years ago; it was just nothing, nothing.

And again, I think I mentioned this last week; I don't fault the Christian as much as I do the pastor. The onus is on us, you know? That's why James writes and warns that you should -- it's a noble thing

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to desire the office of a teacher, but you better read the fine print. You better count the cost because if you're going to teach the Word of God, you will be judged by an infinitely higher standard because you're dealing with lives and souls for all eternity here.

Matthew 7, maybe I could have you join me in Matthew 7. I want to read verses 24 through 27. Jesus is speaking; it's a parable, a powerful parable really, about this very thing. He says, verse 24, "Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew, and beat against that house, yet it did not fall because it had its foundation on the rock."

But uh oh, here it comes. "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

It didn't just come crashing down. The crash was a great crash. Well, wait a minute, you've got two builders. They both, it seems, went to the same church, heard the same sermon, the words of Christ. They're both building a house. They both heard the words of Christ. So what made the difference between the one that stood and the one that came crashing down with a great crash?

Oh, they heard it; they just didn't heed it. They were a hearer of God's word, as James says, but not a doer. Jesus said they did not apply, they did not practice it, and that's what made the difference. That's what hangs in the balance. It's the doing of God's Word, the applying of God's Word, the living by God's Word.

That's when you're rock solid! Bring the perilous times! And I don't have to say, "Bring them;" they're already here! They RSVP'd. You can have these storm hit, and the storm hits, but I'm not gonna be moved. I'm unshaken. Oh, in fact, you know what? Open the blinds; there's a storm out there. That's how solid I am. Why? Because I'm on the rock, the solid rock foundation of God's Word.

Listen, I don't know how else to say it, and I speak to you not as a pastor first and foremost, but as a brother in Christ. In my Christian life, the only way I'm gonna have any hope as a Christian, forget pastor, as a Christian, the only way I'm gonna have any hope of standing strong is by the Word of God, the Word of God, the Word of God, the Word of God. I don't know how it is possible for a Christian in the days ahead to be able to stand without knowing and applying the Word of God. Let me let me take it a step further: When I say, "applying the Word of God," here's what that looks like. "Early in the morning do I rise up and seek thee, O Lord." "In your presence, O Lord, is fullness of joy."

You go right to the Word; "God, have you seen my schedule today?"

"Are you kidding me? I'm the one who scheduled your day."

"Yeah, but God, there's no way."

"I know; that's why I scheduled it that way."

"Yeah, but I can't do it."

"I know, that's why I scheduled it that way so you come to Me because I can. You need me, don't you?"

"Yes, I need you, God. There's no way. No way; let me say it again differently: No way!"

"Way, way, way."

"How?"

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"I'm glad you asked. I'm gonna give you that word, Word of life, fitly spoken that is gonna apply to that intense phone call that you have scheduled at two o'clock this afternoon. I'm gonna give it to you now so that when that phone call takes place that you're dreading" -- can I get a witness on now, by the way? "I'm gonna give it to you now so that it doesn't rock you, it doesn't move you, it doesn't shake you, and it doesn't confuse you."

I can't even begin to tell you how many emails we get from people that are just, I mean, freaking out, confused. I mean, I'm hearing this, but then I'm hearing that. They're saying this, and you're saying that. What's up with that? Doesn't matter what you're hearing or who's saying what they're saying. This is the only thing that matters is: What does God say, what does God say? You know how it is, and I'm just like you, so please, I hope I never come off as, you know, like "I'm the pastor and you guys need to get with the program here."

We all do it. The storm hits, the problem arises, adversity strikes and we call So-and-so. That's the first call we make. "Did you hear what happened?" "No, what happened, oh, my goodness; what are you gonna do?" "I don't know!" And here I picture the Lord in Heaven, Creator of the heavens and the earth and sea and all that in them is and He's created all things, and He has available for me and for you everything we need.

And here we're calling Brother So-and-so and Sister So-and-so. It's almost like God's in heaven going, "Hello, what about Me? Why don't you call upon Me? They're not gonna help you. They're just this confused as you are. In fact, they make it worse, don't they?"

"Well, you're of no help. I mean, what am I going to do?"

"I don't know; what are you gonna do?"

"This is bad." "I know this is really bad, thanks a lot."

"I wish I would've never called you."

Well, you shouldn't have; you should have called upon Him. He -- by the way, it's not a monologue, it's a dialogue because He responds, He hearkens under the voice of your cry, and He speaks very specifically and directly to you, chiefly from and through and in His Word. You know how it is when you're in the Word, and then, of course, the Words gets in you? And I mean, you've read that verse 1000 times before, but today you read that same verse, and I mean, it comes off the page of your Bible. It's almost like the night before God inserted your name in that verse.

I mean this... Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord! 2:00 comes; it's worse than I had even imagined, but I'm unmoved, I'm not shaken. I continue in, trust in, never lose confidence in the Word of God, and the house never crashes down because the foundation upon which it's built is rock solid.

The second one, again, in a word, "equip," in verses 16, and 17. Now these two verses are well-known as the go-to concerning the infallibility of the Word of God. But again, we still have another problem here and that problem is, is that, you know, we read it, we know it, we quote it, but sometimes we actually miss what's really in here for us.

Let me explain. There's a prerequisite of sorts as it relates to God-breathed scripture, God-breathed. All scripture God breathes, but don't stop there. It's God-breathed; yes, it is. Infallible? Absolutely. But then he says it's profitable. It's useful in benefiting us. Wait; that means that just because scripture is God-breathed, all scripture is God-breathed doesn't necessarily mean that I'm gonna be benefited by it. It doesn't mean it's automatic, that I'm gonna be profiting from it.

All scripture is God-breathed. Now, do you -- I ask you rhetorically -- do you want it to benefit you? Do you want it to profit you? Well, there are some requisites in order for all scripture that's God-breathed, being of benefit and profiting you and being useful to you.

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Actually, there are four. Paul lists four, and again, if you don't mind, I'll refer to them as "prerequisites," but they are four legs on the table upon which our Christian faith stand.

The first leg is teaching or doctrine, depending on the translation you have, and it carries with it the idea of the aforementioned solid foundation, doctrinally sound, solid, strong that makes you immovable. Here's an example. I was asking the Lord about this this morning as I was preparing, and He just impressed upon my heart that the sound doctrine of the pre-Tribulation rapture is probably one of the best examples that I can use because see if I'm wishy-washy about that right now, I mean, I'm freaking out. I mean, I'm back and forth. Are we in the Tribulation; maybe it's not a pre-Tribulation rapture? Maybe we are in the Tribulation because I don't know, I don't know.

You know what James says about that? Stay with me. James says this: Chapter 1:5-8. "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

But listen, "When you ask, you must believe and not doubt because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord." "Such a person is, interesting, double-minded." And how about this Word, "Unstable in all they do." They're not sound, they're not solid, they're not strong in their doctrine. So here comes the storm, and they're back and forth.

"I don't know, maybe it is, maybe it isn't, I don't know; what do you think?"

"I don't know."

Back and forth, tossed to and throw double-minded. Think about this. Well, I know they have clinical terms for this condition, but you know how it is that some of us just can't multitask? You know, what's the expression, "You can't chew gum and walk at the same time." You know, some people just can't, you know? Try and, you know, clap, and we just...you know, some of us got it and some of us don't.

So when it comes to multitasking, some of us are really good at multitasking in the wrong way because we're double-minded. My mind is thinking, "Well, it could be," and then here's the other side of the mind going, "Well, maybe, maybe it isn't." Are you kidding me?

Again, they have clinical terms for this condition. But if you're going back and forth like that, you think God wants you to live your Christian life like that? Hey, think about it as earthly parents. You want your children living like that, back-and-forth, unstable, double-minded, confused, don't know what to do? No, you want them solid, sound, strong, not unstable like Number 2.

We don't want to talk about this, do we? Rebuking: oh, just the sound of the word is one of those words that sounds like what it is, "I rebuke you." It's got... you know, packs a punch; "I rebuke you." What does rebuking mean? It means convicting, not condemning, convicting, rebuking, and convicting us that what we're doing or not doing is wrong. You need to be rebuked because you're on the wrong path.

Oh, it might seem right. "There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end is death." Oh, it might "feel right." How could something so bad feel so good? Easy. It's called Sin. So it's a loving rebuke that you're on the wrong path, and if you continue on this path, it will not end well for you. That's what rebuking is, and it ties in to our third one.

Proverbs 1:23 says, "Turn at My rebuke; surely I will pour out My spirit on you." Listen to this, "And I will make My words known to you." If you have ears to hear, I'll give you the word, I'll give you the answer, I'll direct your path. You just need to turn; you need to repent. You're being rebuked.

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Here's the problem. We're not rebuke-able. Is that a word? Let's just say it is. We're on the receiving end of a rebuke; we don't receive it. Well, I just don't receive that. Okay, well, I tried. I love you; I tried. Wounds of a friend are faithful and can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses. In other words, initially, you'll resent that rebuke, but eventually you will appreciate that rebuke because that person cared enough to rebuke you.

You know the person I feel sorry for is the person that doesn't have anybody in their life that's willing to look him eyeball-to-eyeball, belly-to-belly -- that was for the guys, belly-to-belly, and say to them, "You know, I care enough about you to rebuke you in Jesus' name. What you're doing is wrong, the path you're on is wrong, and I care enough to say something and I'm willing because I love you enough. I'm willing to jeopardize our relationship and friendship and do so."

Now initially, they might resent you. Eventually, they will appreciate you. Hey, by the way, it goes both ways. So you rebuke somebody in love, tell them the truth, you speak truth in love. They might initially resent you, hate you, unfriend you on social media, unfollow you, and block you, you know, but not before sending you one last, I mean, Grrr message, but I promise you, on the authority of God's Word standing on the Word of God, and this is what I mean by don't lose confidence in the Word of God.

God's Word says that they will come to that place where they will realize, "Wow, that was my friend." See the enemy only tells me what I want to hear. They multiply kisses. That's not love; that's self-love. They don't want to jeopardize the relationship. Now, initially, you're gonna appreciate it. "Oh, wow. Thank you." The kisses, right, flattery. "Oh, you're good. It's all good." Initially, I'm gonna very much appreciate that. In fact, I'm going to encourage you to tell me more. "What else can you tell me about me that you..."

Initially, I will appreciate it, but eventually I will resent it. "Why didn't you tell me? Why didn't you tell me the truth? Why did you just tell me what I wanted to hear and not what I needed to hear? I needed to hear that! If you really cared about me, you would have rebuked me!"

Again, this ties into leg Number 3, which is "correcting." And correcting is the intended result of rebuking such that one changes course, correcting it, and then making it right, making amends, change course. I'm on the wrong path; I need to turn around, correct my course.

The story is told, perhaps you've heard it before, of a huge ocean liner at sea. The captain of the ship sees a light ahead, radios ahead.

"You need to change course. We're headed right for you. And if you don't change course, we're going to crash. So change course."

Response comes back, "No, how about that? I'm not gonna change course; you change course."

Response comes back, "I'm not changing course, I'm... this is my title, and you know, this is this is a big ship, and you better change course."

And the response comes back and says, "No, you're going to change course because I'm a lighthouse."

I'll just give the Holy Spirit a little bit more time on that one. Think about that. That's the Word of God, the light, the rock-solid foundation. And here we are: We're on a collision course and our lives are going to come crashing down. And in our belligerence and arrogance and stubbornness and stiff-neckedness, and I've got a few more I could add; I won't, "I'm not changing course."

This also again, like with rebuking, presupposes that were correctable. That's a word, for sure; I know that's a word, right? That means that we're -- how about this -- teachable? Ooh, you know in the, what we affectionately refer to as the "pastoral epistles" of which Timothy is one, Titus the

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other, the Apostle Paul writes the qualifications for an elder, and it's translated "able to teach." That's not what it means.

This is what it means: Not "able to teach," "teach able," teachable. On the mainland we had an acronym for people that we would hire on staff, and the acronym was we're looking for FAT people. F is for faithful; A is for available; and T is for teachable. If they weren't faithful, they weren't available, and certainly if they weren't teachable, no-go, no-go.

Let me try to illustrate this way just by way of an example. So when we search the scriptures, the scriptures are searching us. And the problem comes in when we judge the Word instead of the Word judging us, the Word correcting us, the Word teaching us, the Word rebuking us. You know how it is when you come across some of those passages of Scripture, and I mean it's you. I'm sorry if I pointed over here; I'll try to... You know what I'm talking about, right?

Here's what we do. So-and-so needs this verse right here; that's for... Whoa, it seems that I've struck a chord. It's kind of like a sermon. You hear a good teaching, you're like, wow, that was really good! So-and-so needs to hear; I think I'm gonna send them the link. Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait. That's for you; that's for you. You know how it is in the proverbs; you're reading the proverbs, right, and you get to those contrasting proverbs, man, our study through the Book of Proverbs was so rich. But there's those contrasting proverbs where you contrast the righteous with the wicked. And so it will say, the righteous do this, but the wicked do this!

And what do we do? "Yeah, them wicked people!" You know the righteous... thank you, thank you very much. Wait, wait, wait, wait! You're the wicked one! Let the Word of God judge you! You don't judge the Word! Let the scriptures search you. "Search my heart, O Lord, see if there be anything that needs to be removed that's keeping me from loving You, hearing You, knowing You."

Proverbs 12:1; I love this proverb. "Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid." Oh, look it up; don't just look at me like that. It says that you're stupid. Okay, I won't say it again, but it feels so good to say that word. You know what this is saying? You don't like to be corrected?

Somebody tries to correct; you're like, "Me? What about you?" Oh, yes, it's the pot calling the kettle black. You're stupid. Okay, last time I'm going to say it.

If you love instruction and you love knowledge, that's wisdom, but it is a fool who hates it. Oh, yeah, I don't want to hear it, but I need to hear it. I need to hear it, like Number 4: "training" or "instructing," which has the idea of discipling and following the right way, as it relates to God's way, the ways of the Lord.

So let's take all four just real quick here and let's put them together, these four legs on the table upon which we stand: sound doctrinally, rebuke-able, correctable, and trainable. If I am all of the above, ha-ha, bring it on! I think about what the Apostle Paul said, Luke records it in Acts 20, "Nothing moves me." Nothing moves me.

Let me ask you this question, again, rhetorical: Do you want in your Christian life to have an unflinching fearlessness? It's available for you, but you need these four prerequisites in order to realize it. Absent any one of these, you will lack the equipment. Paul says if all four of these are present, then you will be fully equipped. Whatever equipment you need, you got it.

You know how it is when you're trying to do that simple project and you don't have the right tool? It happens to me all the time. I mean, is it just me or when you need a Phillips screwdriver, you could only find a Flathead? Does that happen to you?

Or how about the socket, you know, the wrench size you need? And can you find one? No. Oh, you can find everything else, but it's like, you know, those socket sets you have? The one you need, you

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don't have it and so you can't do it. Then you get the crescent wrench out, and here's what you find out, and maybe it's just me that this happens to. It probably is; I'm taking this very personally.

The crescent wrench doesn't quite get big enough for the size of that. And so then you just break down and weep like a baby when that happens. You lack the equipment, the tool. That's what Paul's saying. So do you want to be fully equipped for every good work? These are the prerequisites. This is what you need in order to do it.

All right, I'm gonna close and I'm gonna pose just one question, and please know that I'm asking of myself the question before the Lord, as I ask it. With what it seems lies ahead in the days ahead with everything as crazy as it is and as we talked about for the Prophecy Update concerning "The Decision," that even now many are facing, a decision that has to be made, a decision that could cost somebody their jobs, their livelihood, could cost them everything, and there's a lot of consternation, trepidation, a lot of confusion. What am I gonna do? What's gonna happen?

Well, I'll come back to the question, but replete throughout Scripture are promises after promises that God will always provide, no matter what. So if I have my foundation on the promises of God and the Word of God -- you know when we call it the Word of God, I think sometimes we kind of skim over what that really means. It's God's Word, right?

That means that God has given us His Word. He's given us His Word, He can't break His Word, He can't go back on His Word; it's God's Word. Does it make sense? It's God's Word, the Word of God. God has given us His Word. He cannot; it's not that He won't, He can't. It's not who He is. So stay with me. So God has given me His Word. He has promised me repeatedly throughout Scripture that His own will never be begging bread, that He will always provide, no matter what.

If you need it, He's gonna provide it. You can bank on it, take it to the bank. Actually, don't take it to the bank right now. I shared this first update; I might as well share it. I went into the bank, and thankfully, my son showed me on an app how I don't have to go to the bank now. I could just take a picture of the check. You gotta love technology. They just got to scan my forehead and my forehead... I'm sorry, that was unnecessary.

So before I knew that, I go into the bank, and there's this guy standing there, and he's like, "Sir, you need to come over here," and I'm like, "What?" "You need to stand in front of the scanner." I'm like, "What?" Oh, you guys must bank the same place. I do.

So here I am; I'm standing in front of this thing, and it's scanning my face and is taking my temperature. I'm like, "Are you kidding me? That's Revelation 13 right there." "You mean I can't do any transactions, buy or sell, unless you scan my forehead and take my temperature?" "Yeah." So thankfully, my temperature was fine and the green check comes up, and he's, "Sir, you may go ahead and go into the line."

(Mockingly) "The check is green; I'll go in the line."

I will close; I do have a question, just bear with me. I'm not shaken by that because the solid foundation of God's word. I'm not blindsided by it. I'm not confused because of it. I'm not moved or shaken in any way, and in fact, it's the opposite that's true because this is exactly what God's Word said would happen. It's almost comical, if I can say like that, you know, not that you're going to say that, but, you know, you could say to the guy, "

Oh, this is interesting; did you know the Bible says that you're going to do this?" Thing is just the beginning. Because it's not gonna be much longer. Well, not me, 'cause I'm gone; you might want to... I have some great "life assurance" policy that I'd like to share with you, but I won't be here for, but, you know, if you are here for it, one of these days, you're gonna be standing right there saying, "We need to scan your forehead or your forehead before you can come in."

2 Timothy 3:1-5; January 24, 2021

Surviving Confusing Times

JD Farag

Doesn't shake me. It actually excites me because God's Word is true, and the truth will set you free. "And whom the Son sets free is free indeed." Why don't you stand and we'll pray.

Thank you for... you guys have treasures in heaven having to bear with me through all of this. Father, thank You so much. Lord, would You take this now and we want to be like that builder that put Your words into practice so that when the storm hits, we don't come crashing down, in Jesus' name, Amen.

[Surviving Confusing Times]