

CL Talks | Dead Ends are Springboards to Breakthroughs
Pastor Al Brice | Episode 56

Dead end= to terminate with no exit or advancement opportunity

Everyone of us at times have run into dead ends in our lives; sometimes, we try to take short cuts and end up at a dead end!! When we run into dead end places of our lives we find ourselves in a position that we don't know what to say, what to do, where to turn, or even what to pray. It seems like everything is finished, over, and done with!!!

This is when we realize that in our own strength that we are no match for some of the things that life will dish out. But as children of the living God, we should not give up when we come to the dead-ends of life and become depressed as if we have no options. The Apostle Paul tells us that he found himself, many times, face-to-face with life-threatening situations.

2 Corinthians 1:8: 8 For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia : that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. 9 Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, 10 who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us, 11 you also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift granted to us through many.

Trouble>>Greek is thlipsis and it means pressure, oppression, stress, anguish, adversity, affliction, crushing, distress; to put a lot of pressure on that which is free; the is used for crushing grapes or olives in a press.

Paul compared the situation he faced, to the sentence of death. The word sentence refers to a jury who just handed down their final sentence or verdict.

All the evidence and facts are in and we can only expect a sentence of death!!!! By all appearances it looked like there was no way out, no escape from from situation, it's over, no rescue this time!!!

They had hit a dead-end; everything for them seemed to be finished and done.

* Have you ever had a time in your life when it looked like it was the end of the road for you and your dreams?

* Do things seemed to be stacked against you and there is no way out?

* Have you been given a report that screams the sentence of death?

* Does your past tell you that there is no real future for you because you messed up too many times or does your past try to haunt you and tell you that you will not have a normal or blessed future?

In spite of how everything looked and appeared in the natural side of things and all that was stacked against him, his life was not over nor did fail at fulfilling God's plan for his life. It have looked like the end of the road but it was really a new chapter in his life of a new flow of the supernatural flow of God's grace, mercy, and power!!!!!!! Paul had been under such intense pressure that he literally thought that death was unavoidable but right in the midst of this horrible situation, God's power was released and Paul was rescued!!!!

2 Corinthians 1:8-10---in verse 9 Paul says that all of this made them realize that they could not trust in their power and ability.

The word trust means to assent to evidence given, to rely on or yield to, to have confidence, to convince by argument, true or false.

They put total trust in God!!!!!! It's when you don't know what to do and you have no one else to turn to that God's resurrection, delivering, and healing power begins to operate in its greatest measure toward you!!!!

When I turn completely to God and find His promises and bring them before Him with total surrender and humility, then I will see His intervention which will bring me my breakthrough. It only takes faith, just simply believe!!!!

Psalms 34:1-10 (NLT): 1 I will praise the LORD at all times. I will constantly speak his praises. 2 I will boast only in the LORD; let all who are helpless take heart. 3 Come, let us tell of the LORD's greatness; let us exalt his name together. 4 I prayed to the LORD, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears. 5 Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces. 6 In my desperation I prayed, and the LORD listened; he saved me from all my troubles. 7 For the angel of the LORD is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him. 8 Taste and see that the LORD is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him! 9 Fear the LORD, you his godly people, for those who fear him will have all they need. 10 Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry, but those who trust in the LORD will lack no good thing.

Jeremiah 17:5-8 (NLT): 5 This is what the LORD says: "Cursed are those who put their trust in mere humans, who rely on human strength and turn their hearts away from the LORD. 6 They are like stunted shrubs in the desert, with no hope for the future. They will live in the barren wilderness, in an uninhabited salty land. 7 "But blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence. 8 They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.

Micah 7:7-8 NKJV: Therefore I will look to the Lord; I will wait (trust, expect, remain in eager anticipation) for the God of my salvation (liberty, deliverance, prosperity, freedom, avenging, defend, rescue, to get victory); My God will hear me. Do not rejoice (jump up and down and do back flips, start joyfully dancing and celebrating) over me my enemy; when I fall (or come to a dead-end), I will arise (accomplish, continue, decree, endure, stir up, rise up against, to strengthen, an uprising); when I sit (ambush, to haunt) in darkness (misery, destruction, sentence of death, sorrow and ignorance), the Lord will be a light to me.

* You see, as long as we have a loving Heavenly Father, there is no such thing as no hope!!!!

Romans 5:1-5 (NLT): 1 Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. 2 Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. 3 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. 4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. 5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.