

Overcoming Life's Pressures | CL Talks Episode 10

Pastor Al Brice | Wednesday, May 27th

Pressures are occurrences that usually appear in some form or fashion everyday. We tend to see them as hinderances, interruptions, harassment, and oppression. It could be financial pressures; marital pressures in trying to be the perfect spouse; pressures of managing the home and raising a family; pressures of trying to please everybody; peer pressure to compromise your faith; pressures to be a perfect Christian; cultural pressure to be like everybody else and fit in; work and parental pressure; pressures from health issues; pressures to reopen the church or not. Pressures can seem to stretch out over days, weeks, months, and even years.

1. "The pressures of life will reveal the strengths or weaknesses in your mental and spiritual foundation."

Matthew 7:24-27 NKJV: "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

Mark 4:16-20 NKJV: These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble. Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

"My biggest concern for the younger generations is that they are presented and taught a shallow and easy faith, a cheapen grace, a depthless holiness, a love without commitment and sacrifice, and a fleshly worship, which can be the undoing of spiritual revival in our generation and the generations to come."

2. "Pressures in life, pull off our mask and reveal our humanity and true identity."

Mark 14:27-31 NKJV: Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered.' "But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee." Peter said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be." Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that today, even this night, before the

rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.” But he spoke more vehemently, “If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” And they all said likewise.

Proverbs 11:2 NKJV: When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom.

Proverbs 29:23 NKJV: A man's pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honor.

3. “Our lives and our destinies are not determined by what happens to us but are determined by how we handle and respond to what happens to us.”

2 Corinthians 4:7-11 NKJV: But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. 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— always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

4. How do we handle the pressures of life successfully?

Must realize that I'm not a god, I'm His creation, He is the Creator, and I'm totally dependent on Him. (Religious people become self reliant, self righteous, self sufficient, prideful, boastful, hateful, angry, controlling, judgmental, unloving, and critical)

Ephesians 6:10 NKJV: Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. “Pressures have a way to bring me back to humility and that God is my Redeemer, Deliverer, Provider, Wisdom, Instructor, Guidance System, and Healer.”

1 Peter 5:5-11 NKJV: Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.