

“Called to Crisis”

Pastor Al Brice | July 12th, 2020

Proverbs 24:10-11 (NKJV)

“If you faint (weaken, forsake, draw back) in the day of adversity (crisis) Your strength is small. 11 Deliver those who are drawn toward death, And hold back those stumbling to the slaughter.”

When unexpected crisis comes and lingers, it creates an environment for the arising of God’s men and women to come on the scene and address the crisis from their God given anointing, authority, and most important, praying, speaking, and moving with confidence; not with confidence in themselves but the confidence that comes from spending time with God by taking time praying and worshipping in your understanding and the Spirit, and time in His Word.

These simple spiritual disciplines will keep us strong, steadfast, standing for righteousness and truth, and moving forward in these last days.

1. Addressing and speaking to our crises

Matthew 8:23-27 (NKJV)

“Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. 24 And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. 25 Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!” 26 But He said to them, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. 27 So the men marveled, saying, “Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”

a. The disciples faced a crisis in the form of a storm, panicked, gave way to fear, forgot what Jesus said at the beginning (**Mark 4:35 (NKJV)**, *“On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, “Let us cross over to the other side”*) and surrendered their authority, in fear, to the authority of the storm. Jesus, on the other hand, arose in the crisis and spoke to it exercising His God given authority. **What was the difference?**

Matthew 26:41 (NKJV)

“Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Matthew 17:19-20 (AMPC)

“Then the disciples came to Jesus and asked privately, Why could we not drive it out? 20 He said to them, Because of the littleness of your faith [that is, your lack of trust and confidence in the power of God]; For truly I say to you, if you have faith [that is living] like a grain of mustard seed, you can say (to expressly name; to speak a specific quotation) to this mountain, Move (to change in condition) from here to yonder place, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.”

Mountain: “a figure for an obstacle, hindrance, or humanly insurmountable problem—none of which is impossible for God to deal with through committed people who accurately understand their authority and know His power, will, purposes, and provision.”

2. What is our reaction to crisis?

1 Samuel 17:11 (NKJV)

“When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed (confusion, fear, scared, terrified, to break down) and greatly afraid (to stand in awe of; to give reverence to; to bow down).”

- Goliath was also the news anchor for Israel’s newscast for forty days and nights.

1 Samuel 17:16 (NKJV)

“And the Philistine drew near and presented himself forty days, morning and evening.”

1 Samuel 17:20-21 (NKJV)

“So David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, and took the things and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the camp as the army was going out to the fight and shouting for the battle. 21 For Israel and the Philistines had drawn up in battle array, army against army.”

- Even though they shouted everyday, Israel’s army succumbed to the news therefore surrendered to fear, hunkered down, and relegated themselves to defeat.
- God will always have someone in the wings, that is in obscurity, and who will rise up boldly for the cause!

1 Samuel 17:26 (NKJV)

“Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, “What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”

- When Christians stand boldly for a godly and moral cause, there will always those who try to intimidate and discourage them, even in the church family and outside.

1 Samuel 17:28-30 (NKJV)

“Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab’s anger was aroused against David, and he said, “Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle.” 29 And David said, “What have I done now? Is there not a cause?” 30 Then he turned from him toward another and said the same thing; and these people answered him as the first ones did.”

3. We must speak to and address our crises because our crises will speak to us!

- If we fear to stand up to our crises, our outcome will be determined by the powers of darkness.

1 Samuel 17:42-48 (NKJV)

“And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking. 43 So the Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 And the Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!”

45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. 47 Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD'S, and He will give you into our hands." 48 So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine."

- David spoke in accordance to and in harmony with God's will, the power of God was released, the enemy was defeated, and therefore he delivered himself and Israel.

Mark 9:23 (NKJV Strong's)

"Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."