

Leadership Tip!

Being able to step away from the chaos and present a calm focus does not mean that leaders are emotionless. Let your emotions fuel your leadership to reduce the chaos.

BEST SUMMER EVER!

“Calm”

“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have told you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid”
John 14: 26-27 (NIV)

STARTER QUESTIONS:

What is your idea of “calm” and how do you get it?

MAIN IDEA:

Calm in a broken world is something that is marketed and sold like it is a rare thing that people long for but can't get on their own. The truth is people do long for it, and it is always within their reach.

Think about this for a second, in a perfect world, “calm” won't exist.

What do you think about that statement?

Go to your Bibles and read Genesis 2 starting in verses 8 – 25. Calm was the natural state of things, there was no need to define it. People and God walked together and “calm” was “normal”. Now I would like to believe that this natural state of calm lasted a lot longer than the small space between chapters 2 and 3 in Genesis, but it is obvious the state of the world changed after the fall.

In your opinion, what is the best part of the Garden of Eden?

Many people look at the aspect of being able to walk with God daily as the best part of Eden. And guess what? We still can walk with God each day. This is what Jesus was talking about in our key verses John 14: 26-27.

For those who believe in Jesus and what he did on the cross for us, the Holy Spirit, sent by God the Father, is a part of Him we have in our lives. When we lean into the Holy Spirit as we go through this broken world, a little part of Eden returns to us.

So how do we lean into the Holy Spirit? It starts with communication, us to God in our prayers and God to us in His word, the Bible. As we pray or read the Bible, the Holy Spirit is going to remind us of Jesus and teach us about the characteristics of God the Father, the way Jesus would teach His disciples. The more we learn about God's characteristics, the more likely we are to surrender to Him daily.

Now, as a veteran, surrender is not a word I like or something I would even think of doing. This is what the Holy Spirit taught me. We need to completely surrender ourselves to God.

Surrender means: "To cease to struggle". Not as in, "the battle is over," but it means to give the struggle over to someone with more firepower than you have to continue to battle. When we turn what we struggle with over to God, it frees us to continue the mission that God has for us and reduces the chaos in our world.

Looking at the above meaning of surrender; how does it change your thoughts about the word and its meaning? Why?

Closing Thoughts:

During the opening days of World War II, to say the world was anything but calm would be an understatement. For Britain, it meant that most of its Army was trapped on a narrow coastline in France, their homeland in view across the Channel with a massive German Army bearing down on them. Many people credit Sir Winston Churchill with saving that Army, but what most people don't remember is the King of England, George the VI, called for a National Day of Prayer the Sunday before the German Army was to roll on to the coast. The entire kingdom heeds the call and flooded churches across the world. That night the German Army stopped in its tracks and remained in place for three days while the Army was being evacuated. While chaos reigned a kingdom calmly prayed and carried on. That my friends is the power of turning a struggle over to God!

BEST SUMMER EVER!
"How to stay CALM in the midst of Chaos"

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ...Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. ...And the God of peace will be with you." Philip. 4:4-9 (NIV)

Paul's prescription for dealing with anxiety:

1. Celebrate God's goodness. *"Rejoice in the Lord always"* (v. 4).

"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)

2. Ask God for help. *"Present your requests to God"* (v. 6).

"When you pray, tell God every detail of your needs." (Ph)

3. Leave your concerns with him. *"With thanksgiving . . ."* (v. 6).

4. Meditate on good things.

"...whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things" (v.9)

The Result:

"...the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (v.5)