



Peninsula City Church

Songs for Life

Steadiness & Volatility of Life

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Steadiness and Volatility of Life

Introduction

Q. When life becomes volatile where to you go to get some helpful advice try to gain some steadiness?

It has been said when things become a little hard and we need some helpful advice,

“Of course I talk to myself, sometimes I need expert advice!” A Minion¹

“When your mother asks, ‘Do you want a piece of advice?’ it is a mere formality. It doesn't matter if you answer yes or no. You're going to get it anyway.” (Erma Bombeck)²

So, let me ask you a question...

1. Volatility

Q. What do you do when you are affected by the volatility of life?

We all know that life can be totally unpredictable from day to day and moment to moment. Each person can have their pet strategy for coping and we are happy to share this with those who are the cause in the sea of volatility.

In Psalm 1:1, the gateway or entry into the joy of the fire filled and passionate Psalms (songs for life), the Psalmist wrote,

1 “Overflowing joy (blessed, ripe, or to be highly enviable) comes to those who follow God's ways!”

Wow, what a remarkable way to open the gate into the Psalms with this amazing declaration and promise. All of us can frequently ask God to bless us, our own and our situations. The declaration here is that those who follow God's ways will be blessed. This one who is blessed in the way that is being spoken of here is enjoying the Father's special favour. You may be thinking there is no volatility here; all seems to be calm and sweet sailing.

However, the Psalmist went on to reveal three areas that can affect the volatility of life and make things worse as they spiral downwards.

- They won't walk in step with the advice of the wicked (ungodly, lawless ones)
- nor share (stand) the sinner's way who has missed the mark themselves
- or be found sitting in the scorner's (scoffers at the things of God) seat (dwelling with them)

So, let me ask you the question again that I asked at the start of this chat,

“When life becomes volatile where to you go to get some helpful advice try to gain some steadiness?”

The Psalmist provides remarkable lifesaving advice here for where not to get some help try to gain some steadiness. If you look closely, you will notice that there is a downward progression. Notice the following

- It goes from, walking keeping in step with the ungodly
- Being drawn down to the level of standing (making ones stand in) the sinner's ways

¹ <https://plus.google.com/+TakequotesInfoMinionQuotes/posts/2TyKQmLLKeU> (11th June 2015)

² <http://www.dumb.com/quotes/advice-quotes/> (11th June 2015)

- To sinking down to the level and finally be found sitting, or bogged and living in the filthiness of the scorner's seat

The Psalmist went on in verses 4-6 to point out the end result of this kind of life when things become volatile. They point out that, in the end it does not lead to steadiness. They highlight the truth that the wicked, sinner and scorner in the end,

- All they are as dust (chaff) blown by the wind, driven away to destruction: v4
- They will not endure (be safe) on the Day of Judgment; for God will not defend them. Nothing they do will succeed or endure for long. For they have no part with those who walk in truth: 5
- While the paths of the godless lead only to doom: v6

The imagery used here is that the wicked, sinner and scorner are like wild plants in an unkept field. They are unwatered, choosing to feed on the scraps that come their way. They are dried out and wind tossed to their own to destruction. They will not be able to stand on the Day of Judgment of God. They are not lovers of God, scoffers at the things of God.

Consequently, when life becomes volatile, why would anyone go to these to get some help to try to gain some steadiness. They have no steadiness in their life, rather all they have is volatility. They are blown from pillar to post having no roots to gain any kind of steadiness. But, how many times do we see those around us run to the unwatered, choosing to feed on the scraps that come their way that they are trying to feed us. Remember, that they are not lovers of God, but total scoffers of God and His ways.

2. Steadiness

Q. So, if this is not the place to go when life becomes volatile to get some helpful advice try to gain some steadiness, where can you go?

To be in a state or condition of steadiness one need to go to the right place. The Psalmist points in the right direction for the one in need of steadiness when they said,

“Their pleasure and passion is remaining true to the Word of “I Am,” Meditating each and every moment of the illumination of light”

This is not an occasional occurrence, but it is a life. This is the place that the Psalmist finds steadiness and overflowing joy in the Living Word. They live there in this place every moment of their day and night.

Notice that they point out that they are meditating each and every moment of this illumination of the light of the Word of God. They are reading, consuming and this Word any way they can and then musing on it. Or to put it another way they are continually reading and then chattering or muttering this Word. It is the image of a chattering bird. Or as I have called it “Cow Theology.” That is, it is like a cow that eats its food and then ruminates (chews) on it until it has gotten the entire goodness out of it. So, to meditate on the Word of God here is not an emptying, but a filling up of the mind and spirit.

The one who lives like this is will have a state of steadiness in their world regardless of what is to come their way. The Psalmist highlighted the truth that these ones,

- Will be standing firm like a flourishing tree planted by God's design, deeply rooted by the brooks of bliss, bearing fruit in every season of their lives: v3

- Are never dry, never fainting, ever blessed, and ever plentiful. What indescribable joy: v3
- It is different it is for the lovers of God, the Lord watches over them as they move forward: v6

Some of the things that stand out here are that, the Lord has planted these ones and they have roots, so they are blown about. They do not need to search for water and never dry, but have been planted and are deeply rooted by the brooks (or irrigated channels) of bliss. These planted trees are fruitful in the season of lives. They are doing what a tree in these conditions should be doing, because there is intentionality in the mind of the Gardener. They have planted for a fruitful harvest and intended to get it. The Lord always knows and watches over His lovers, them as they move forward in life. If this does not bring steadiness in life, what will?

Some Concluding Thoughts

Q. So, when life becomes volatile where to you go to get some helpful advice try to gain some steadiness?

Or

Are you in a state or condition of steadiness needed to live in a place overflowing joy?

It is important to realise that we will all sense volatility of life until the full coming of the kingdom of God. However, as Christ-followers, we can still live in a state or condition of steadiness the face of life's challenges up till then. This is done as the Psalmist has pointed out, by putting our reassurance and trust in Him and His Word can bring overflowing joy. Does this mean that we will not have trials and be tested in our faith? Certainly not! But it does mean that we can find steadiness for our souls.

As Christ followers, it is important to realise that the wicked, sinner and scorner will lead you astray in the end. If you walk, stand, sit in with them, you will become like them. Determine, no matter what, you will still meditate every moment of your day in the illuminating of light of His Word! Letting your souls deep within you call out to the deep in God your Saviour. Let the noise of the chatter of your meditations fill your heart and spirit. Then you will,

- Stand firm like a flourishing tree planted by God's design, deeply rooted by the brooks of bliss, bearing fruit in every season of your life
- Never dry up, never faint, you will be ever blessed, and ever plentiful, with indescribable joy
- Reveal that you are a true lover of God, and the Lord will watch over you as you move forward in life

Let me close by reading you some thoughts in light of this Psalm as a reflection,

“Watch your thoughts; they become words.

Watch your words; they become actions.

Watch your actions; they become habits.

Watch your habits; they become character.

Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.”³

³ “How to Meditate on God's Word.” <http://www.memoryverses.org/how3.shtml> (11th June 2015)