

DIFFICULT SEASONS

Trying times and keeping your faith in Jesus
Christ



ERICA JERMANUS

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DIFFICULT TIMES

CHAPTER ONE

THE CALM
BEFORE
THE
STORM

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There is always a calm before the storm. Before you go through the storm things may be going well for you. You may have a good paying job, money in your bank account, food on the table, a home, a car, and a family.

You may have all that you need in this season. Before a set back is a set up. Because you are so complacent in life and content with where you are God may put you in a storm to keep you humble, reliant, and dependant on Him alone.

Things may start to switch up on you. You may lose family members and friends that you thought were close to you. You may lose that job or career. The money in your bank account may go to nothing. Or maybe you are without a house or car. It may be a number of things happening at one time. You may have to reach a breaking point before an actual break through.

Whatever the situation or circumstance that you are going through or about to go through...God has a plan and purpose for it. That situation is allowing you trust in Him more to provide for your needs and to come through at the right time.

We can learn to be content like the apostle Paul in his circumstances. He was content in a jail cell because he had Jesus Christ and He was all that he needed.

Philippians 4:19

“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:12-13

“I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”



DIFFICULT TIMES

CHAPTER TWO

THE STORM

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Everything may have been going good for you until you hit rock bottom. You may be currently in a storm right now or have just gone through one. This storm in life could be a job loss, homelessness, famine, sickness, or a loss of a loved one. This storm that you are going through could be a failed marriage, or a financial crisis.

The storm that you are undergoing may have cause you to go through sorrow, depression, sadness, loneliness, heartbreak, pain, sickness, suffering, etc.

This is all part of God's plan. God has a purpose for the pain that we go through in life. Jesus Christ may be using what you are going through as a testimony for others who are going through the same. Your testimony can help save someone else's life. Your testimony can lead a lost soul to Jesus Christ and to salvation.

What you are going through now is allowing you to come out stronger on the otherside of where you are going to.

These hardships that we are going through are only preparing us for the best yet to come. This is where we need to trust God and have faith that He will get us through it even if it does not make sense at the moment.

There are great things on the otherside of our obedience to Heavenly Father. Obedience requires us to step out in faith and out of fear, worry, or doubt.

We may have to suffer through some things before we get to a breakthrough. There are rewards for the pain and suffering we endure here on earth. When we keep our faith and trust in Jesus Christ through the storm, He will reward our obedience and faithfulness. Don't give up! Keep running. Keep going until you get to the finished line.

CHAPTER THREE

THE
TESTING
AND
TRYING OF
FAITH

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When we go through various trials and tribulations we can be sure that our faith is being tested. God wants to see if we will stand firm in the face of adversity. He wants to see if we will keep our trust in Him even when we are going through pain and suffering.

God wants to see that we will still continue to trust Him even when things are not going our way. He wants to see if we will still worship Him in the storm. He wants to see if we will still thank and praise Him in the storm.

We can have joy in the midst of our pain and suffering because we know that it produces patience and endurance in and through us.

James 1:2-4

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

When our faith is tested, it has a change to grow. Our faith will be refined as gold purified by fire. When that happens, all the impurities will rise to the surface. God will be able to see what was in our hearts.

1 Peter 1:6-7

“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:”

Romans 5:3-4

“And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;
4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:”

DIFFICULT TIMES

CHAPTER FOUR

KEEPING
THE FAITH
IN THE
MIDST OF
CHAOS

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When we are going through tests and trials, it is so easy for us to give in and give up. We may want to throw in the towel. That is what the enemy satan wants from us. He wants us to give up on God and our faith. He wants us to walk away.

But instead of giving up, we can continue to keep pressing into the Lord Jesus Christ. We can continue to keep praying, worshiping, reading our bibles, and serving others. We may not feel like it because we are tired. But that is when we need to ask God to help us to endure and persevere and not give up.

Galatians 6:9 “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

2 Timothy 2:3 “Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”

Not only may we be tempted to give up our faith in God but also we may be faced with doubts, fears, worries, and discouragement. The enemy satan will use these things to target our minds and thoughts. The enemy is after our minds because our minds control our actions.

So we need to be praying that the Lord would protect and guard our hearts and minds. Also, fight back with prayer, worship and the word of God. These are our spiritual weapons of warfare against the enemy and his attacks.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”

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