

When the Road Gets Rough

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Welcome to Brothers of the Word because, brother, you need the Word!

And I am filling in for C. Elijah today. And I went through an issue with my wife and kids this past week that was actually the roughest issue we faced as a family together. And it gave both Stephanie and I headaches and stomachaches and kept us up at night just from the stress of it.

Many of you don't think pastors go through anything, we go through as well. And C. Elijah, he called me two evenings ago and he wasn't aware about what was going on and he asked if I could fill in for him today. And he didn't know that I was sitting there with my head hurting and my stomach hurting and eyes red from lack of sleep.

And not only that but I had congestion in my throat, headache, and on top of all that, I didn't have a message ready. So I hesitated on him and thought about it for a minute. But I told him that I would do it because I realized that these were all excuses and none of them were valid reasons that I couldn't deliver the word of God.

II Timothy 4:2 says to preach the Word both in season and out of season. And I don't know exactly what the author meant by out of season but I do know that he wasn't talking about convenient times. I do know that it wasn't a time when you feel your best and everything gets hunky-dory; I know it's not a time when people that you even preach into want to hear some preaching. I know it's not a time when your money is right and when your health is right... So I don't know exactly what he meant by out of season but I knew it wasn't the best of times.

So that word rolls up in me. "Son, preach my Word both in season and out of season." And this is one of those out of season times. And I'm here as this preacher unto you and there are times that are just out season, that you'll go through in life, and the weather is not as sunny as it is normally. The fruit doesn't taste as sweet; not tasting in season.

Yesterday, as I sat in my computer to do some work on it – even before I began to study for this message on what to preach on – God dropped in my spirit to preach about times like these because surely other people will go through even more than you are going through now. So, I speak to you today from the subject of "When the Road Gets Rough".

Turn to your neighbor and say "When the road gets rough". Turn to the other side and say "When the road gets rough". And life is not always going to have smooth rules and just as smooth seas never made good sailors. Smooth roads never created great people of faith.

And I'm going to give you seven keys that has helped my family through these rough times so that there will be a guide for you during your tough periods. And every person under the sound of my voice, if you're not in a rough time right now, just keep on living. And I can guarantee you before the end of these old days that rough times and rough roads will come at some point.

I'm going to move fast here to get it there in time. Key 1: When you're dealing with a tragedy or something that's rougher than normal and are unusual situations... Key 1 is to anoint your house and everyone in it. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world; against spiritual wickedness in high places. And you can't fight spiritual things with physical weapons.

And my youngest son, Joseph, he had no idea what was going on in the house. He had no knowledge of the situation at all and he came to me on that day and he said, "Daddy, as I walked from room to room in the house, I feel like something is just breathing out of my neck." He said, "I tried to go in another room and it's like just breathing; there's something hovering within the house." And I knew what I had to do.

And when you have an attack against your household, you need to anoint your door post like the children of Israel did to avoid the angel of death. And they used to animal blood to do it. But today, we have the blood of Jesus which is far more powerful than any animal known to man.

So the first thing that I did when my house was under attack was to anoint every exterior and interior door with all. And as I anointed and I proclaimed that I anointed it with the blood of Jesus and I beseeched the angels, the guardian angels and the warring angels, to come and protect this house and this entrance from allowing any evil spirit that is not of God to enter these premises and I did it in every exterior door and every interior door.

Then, when I finished with the doors, I went and did every member of my household from the oldest child to the youngest child; from my wife, even until myself because if you don't anoint the people within the house, the devil will jump in your family members and come in your house, through one of your loved ones. So you've got to anoint the entrances, both physical entrances and people.

Key 2: Pray and seek God's direction, peace and comfort. Jesus promised as he was leaving, to send the comforter unto us. When the comforter comes, you'll have peace in the midst of the storm. You'll have direction when you reach a fork in the road and don't know which way to go. You'll have comfort for your heart that no psychologist can give you.

There is power in prayer. And you don't need to pray by yourself either. You need to have every member of your household come in and join hands and join hearts and pray as one, because where two or three come together in His name, He's in the midst. And there's power and peace when there is unity. And you've heard it said that a family that prays together stays together.

And even this very day, a federal judge in this country ruled that the National Day of Prayer, established by Congress in 1952, they ruled that it was unconstitutional. A federal judge in this country... And I can tell you that no matter what they ruled from the courts concerning prayer in schools or concerning prayer in governments or prayer in businesses, you better not rule out prayer out of your households because when you take prayer out of your house, I'll tell you the Devil will be right there coming in with the quickness.

Moving on to Key 3: Study and meditate on the Word under matter. And some great scriptures to start off with, you need to get specific scriptures dealing with your situations but there are some general scriptures that can fortify you as well and one of those, we've been going over every week here at the Ark, and that's Ephesians 6, talking about pulling on the whole armor of God.

And I won't go through it since we hear it every week here. If you're not here at the Ark, read that in detail and put it within you. Another scripture, when even with the armor, if you... Make sure that you have all of that armor, because if, you know, if you're missing one piece of armor, that is a vulnerable point that He can come in.

So, if you don't have on the shield, then he can stab you there. If your feet are not sharp with that preparation of the Gospel of peace, then He will trip up your feet. So, if you don't have on your helmet, then He'll get into your mind so make sure that you have that full armor.

Another scripture is Psalms 91 that you can meditate on and this says that,

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. If you make the Most High your dwelling— even the LORD, who is my refuge— then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so

that you will not strike your foot against a stone. You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent. “Because he loves me,” says the LORD, “I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation.”

And you need to meditate upon the Word of God. And I can tell you: Whatever you meditate upon, that’s the state that your heart will be in. If you meditate upon the Word, then you’ll be uplifted daily by the Word. But if you meditate upon the problem, if your bills are due and you don’t have the money and don’t know how you’re going to pay them and if you constantly look in at this paperwork and thinking about you might get put out of your house, you might lose your vehicle, then your heart will become fearful and sad.

But if you meditate upon the promises of the Lord and what He’s declared for His children, then it’ll stir fates within you and your heart will be built.

Key 4 is talk to a wise, trusted friend to help strengthen you. Proverbs 11:14 says that in the multitude of counselors, there is safety. And three qualities that you want to look for in this person... You don’t want to just get anybody.

Number 1 is make sure that you talk with someone who is trustworthy to keep your situation confidential. And you already have an idea on who that is. Let me give you one hint: If they’ve been telling you somebody else—that they ought not to, I can guarantee you that won’t hold your business. So make sure that they know how to keep their mouths shut before you tell them anything.

Number 2 is make sure that it’s someone who is wise in the affairs of life. And if you look at them and their life is all in a chaos and they make unwise decision, how in the world do you expect them to give you wise counsel when they hadn’t been wise. They got somebody’s credit all jacked up and you go to them and ask, “You know I need to make some extra money, how you recommend I do that?” No, you’ve got to have somebody who is wise in the affairs of life.

The third criteria that you need to make sure they have, is the need to know how to pray. And that prayers can uplift you and strengthen you even when you get weak. And even this week, pastor was that one and he didn’t have whole of the details but he knew I was going through some things and because we’re so close, it was troubling his spirit and he sent me an e-mail and said, “I was praying for you early this morning before 6 o’clock... Early in the morning.”

And he said that he asked God that if he could even just bear some of my load to just put it on him. And he knew I had a headache and a stomach ache and he said

he doesn't get headaches. He said within ten seconds of praying that prayer, his head started hurting. And my headache, it was gone that morning.

So, I thank pastor for taking some of my load on his own self. So, it helps to have a friend in need. And I even had the revelation right before I came tonight that even Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, even He had to have Simon of Cyrene to help Him carry the cross to Calvary.

Now, if Jesus, with all powers, if He had to have some help carrying the cross to Calvary, what do you think about us when you try to carry this load all by yourself and bottle up with it. And if Jesus had to have somebody to help with that load physically on Earth, then we need others as well. No man is an island unto himself.

Key 5, is nail it to the cross. Philippians 3:13 says,

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,”

And you can nail it to the cross visualizing yourself doing it and your mind and spirit, or you can actually just take some wood and make a simple cross and you write down the issue that's plaguing you – the tribulation that you're going through – and you fold that piece of paper up and pray over it and take a nail and actually, physically, nail it to a cross. And once you nail it to a cross, you leave it there. Don't pick it back up and I know many of our people of business, I even wore a jacket with a cross on it so you can visualize what I'm saying about nailing it to the cross.

So, I'll tell you, He bore our sicknesses and all of our sins on the cross. We don't have to carry it all ourselves, He's already paid the price but you've got to leave it there and you can't take it upon yourself.

Key 6 is press on. Philippians 3:14 says,

“I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” And a few years back, there was a devout Christian that had a tragedy happened to him and I was talking with my mother about it and you constantly philosophy about how bad things happen to good people and we were just chatting about it. And I said, “This person, they really pray aloud and they're really close with God and it's amazing how this really just happened.”

And my mother made a statement that I've never forgotten. While I was trying to get understanding out of the situation, she said, “Son, God doesn't stop all the bad stuff from happening to his children. But He does give you the strength to endure it all.” And I'll never forget it all the days of my life.

So, He might not take away everything that may happen to you; you'll go through some things, still, you'll go through some trials and tribulations, you'll go through some things you may not understand, you'll go through some things even other people will look at and judge you about it, say "I wonder what caused this.", you'll go through some things that'll have people talking about you, but I tell you:

He won't take all of these things from you; He didn't take it even from His only begotten Son, Jesus, who went through everything that we have to go through. Men talked about Him, they spat on Him, they put a crown of thorns upon Him, they did all manner of evil against Him, called Him all manner of names. But I tell you, He gave Him the grace and the strength to go through, to press on without sin, without failing faith.

So, He'll give you the strength to go on. And you can never stay where you are in life. You will eventually either go up or down. And if you get hurt and do nothing, and say, "I'm just going to stay right here. I'm hurt." You can't really stay right there. And if somebody breaks your heart and you say, "I'm not going to open my heart. I'm going to close it so this won't happen again. I'll never love anybody else." You can't stay in that point because as you grow older, you'll find yourself growing lonely and there'll be nobody there to love and to love you.

And it'll get worse and worse and worse and the state you were in will actually grow worse with no love in your heart. So, there's no ability in this life to stay exactly where you are. We age and the body changes, the spirit and mind changes. So you're either going to get better or worse.

So, make a decision to keep on keeping on because we serve a moving God. The children of Israel were led by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. And if you stay still, you'll get left by the move of God. And in order to get out of the wilderness, you must move with the cloud and the fire and press on towards the Promised Land.

And if you stay where you are, even if the cloud is right there, the clouds move and you don't move, you'll stay right there in the wilderness and wonder why the lights went out and wonder why you can no longer feel God with you. It's because you're not moving with Him. So, you've got to move with God and stay close to the pulse of God.

And trials will come and when they come, they will either push you closer to God or they will push you closer or further from God, rather. One of the two; and you have to decide how you're going to let the situation do you.

Some people, when things come, they get mad at God and they get mad at others and hold hate in their heart and it pushes them further away from God and it allows the enemy to come in and to plant seeds of evil within your heart. And God can't speak to you and can't do the mission He's called you for because this thing has pushed you further from Him.

Or you can hang on closer to Him and say that, "Even as Job said." I mean, you can say when these things come upon you, you can say, "No matter what you're saying devil as for me and my house, we're going to serve the Lord. No matter what you're saying. The more you come against me, the closer I'm going to get to my God. The more I will stay on my knees. The more I will stay in my Word. Devil, you can't have this house. You can't have this vessel. You can't have these children. You can't have this wife. I'm going to keep my hand inclined with the Hand of God."

So, guard your heart against hate, against bitterness, against un-forgiveness, because these things would come to push you away from the living, loving God.

The Final Key, Key 7 is to formulate and apply systems to prevent the same thing from happening again. And this is a lot of steps within this; there are different things that are components of this. There are some practical things and some spiritual things. You need to do everything you can in the natural and everything you can in the spiritual.

You need to read books on the subject and doctriate your stuff with yourself with it the wisdom of the world and the knowledge of the world. You can take seminars on the subjects, no matter what are your thing is in. You can get counseling from those that have years of experience with it and have great results dealing with the same type of situations. You can seek experts in the field.

The other thing that you have to do is part of this is close spiritual doors. And once you cast out an evil spirit out of your house or out of a person, they'll go out and seek seven others like it and they'll come and find the house sweet clean and the second state will be worse than the first if you don't close those spiritual doors.

So, make sure that you close those doors and you do that two ways: One is by making sure you have on that full armor we talked about in Ephesians, the second way is make sure that there's not sin in your life in any area because sin... Have you all seen those little doorstoppers you put on a door? That's what sin does. No matter how hard you try to close the door, put that little rubber doorstopper under the door that'll allow a crack in the door.

And that's all Satan needs. If he can just his big toe in the door, then he can stick his fingers in and pry that door open. So, be careful, just analyze your life and the habits and the lifestlye of your life to make sure that there's no sin in the count that

Satan can come in through. And you have to equip yourself each day with the whole armor of God.

The next thing is to set up parameters in the natural way. You won't be in the same situation for the same thing that happened again and you've heard the famous saying that, "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me." And without doing something after you get delivered, you'll be fooled not just twice, you'll be fooled three, four, five and unlimited times if you don't do something different; if you don't take action. So, make sure that you keep on the whole armor of God.

Those seven points, again, in summary are:

1. Anoint your house and everyone in it.
2. Pray and seek God's direction, peace, and comfort.
3. Study and meditate on the word on the matter.
4. Talk to a wise, trusted friend to help strengthen you.
5. Nail it to the cross.
6. Press on.
7. Formulate and apply systems to prevent the same thing from happening again.

Well, that's all our time. I hope that something in this message has blessed you and if you don't need it now, make sure that you get this message and store it because they'll all come a time when the road won't be as smooth as it is right now.

And you can go to AirJesus.com, put in message 8222 and send this message to a friend or listen to it in its entirety again.

I thank you for joining us at Brothers of the Word because, brother, you need the Word!