



## **Avoiding Desperation in Desperate Times**

**By Dr. Larry Ollison**

We are living in desperate times. Families that have been financially stable are finding themselves without jobs, state governments are broke, repossessions are at an all time high, natural disasters, terrorism and political unrest are in the news continually. Along with a liberal social lifestyle being promoted by the entertainment industry, families have been pushed to their limit. Adding to this, we have church organizations that are advocating a lifestyle that includes actions that the Word of God clearly says is sin.

All these things combined have caused some great storms for many families and churches. However, we are of a different kingdom. We are in the world, but we are not of it. So, we must decide what will be our response to this attack. We know this. Because we are not of this world, our response cannot be worldly. We must be led by His Spirit instead of being led by earthly advisors. In spite of what the news media says, we can be at peace even though the storm is rocking our boat.

Proverbs 3:25-26 says, "Do not be afraid of sudden terror, nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes; for the Lord will be your confidence, and will keep your foot from being caught." Paul said, because we have the same spirit of faith, we believe and we speak. (2 Corinthians 4:13) What is it that we believe? We believe what God says. And what is it that we say? We say what God says.

So understanding this truth, what do we do? Even though we are in a ship that is being tossed by the storm, we must follow the example of Jesus instead of reacting in the natural. Why? Because the natural man does not understand the things of God, nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14) Only when we are led by the Spirit will we receive results that originate in the spirit realm. Remember the victory that has overcome the world is our faith. Faith is a substance in the realm of the spirit and activates the power of God that delivers us. There was a time when Jesus was in a boat and there was a great storm. While His disciples were frantic and screaming at Him, Jesus Himself was asleep on a pillow.

It's interesting to note that Jesus did not deny that the storm existed. So many people do that. They say, "This storm does not exist." They say, "I am not sick." They say, "I am not broke." They say, "I am not in peril." But Jesus never said anything like that. Jesus spoke faith. He did not speak denial. He actually acknowledged the existence of the storm by speaking to it. Faith and denial are not the same. Denial says, "The attack is not happening." Faith says, "I am victorious." Denial is negative. Faith is positive.

The Word tells us to call those things that be not as though they are. But too many people are doing just the opposite. They are calling those things that are as though they are not, and that is the opposite of faith.

When the disciples screamed at Jesus and accused Him of not having compassion because they were about to die, He did not stand up and look at the storm and say to the disciples, "What's wrong with you guys? There is no storm!" Instead, He took authority over it by speaking to it and

commanding it to be calm. Then He looked at His disciples and He asked them two very pointed questions. He said, "Why are you so fearful?" And then He asked them the second question. He said, "How is it that you have no faith?" In another way of saying this, Jesus asked them, "Why are you afraid? And why is it you don't believe what I have told you?"

It is true that many families and ministries have dwindling funds. Although these things are true and factual, the truth of the Word overrides the facts.

So what is our response to the attack coming against many Christians today?

First and foremost, we must remember that God is our source. God uses many methods to bless us, including a job. However, we must never look to the method as our deliverance, but always look to Him, who is our true source. We must believe and act on what the Bible teaches. If we seek first the Kingdom of God, He will supply. If we will take care of God's house, He will take care of ours. This must be a truth that we believe and act on.

God's Word is true. He will meet all our need and supply in abundance for every good work that we have been called to do. We don't deny the attack of the enemy, but we take authority over it and proclaim deliverance and victory. He is our victory. He supplies all our need. No weapon formed against us will prosper. This is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith.

Remember the words of Jesus during the storm. "Why are you afraid? Why don't you believe what I have told you?" Continue to feed on the Word of God. Instead of screaming in panic, act on the promise. Times may be desperate, but you're not. Believe what He has told you. You are of His Kingdom. Rest in the storm. Your deliverance will come to pass.

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