

## ***TRUSTING GOD IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STORM.***

In the middle of the storm, we will need trust, faith, hope and patience.

**Trust** is a firm belief in the reliability, truth, or ability of someone or something.

**Hope** is an expression of a wish, desire or something people dream of. It is something you want to happen.

**Faith** is the evidence of things not seen.

My objective is that at the end of this short message, the Lord will stir up the faith in us and give us hope for tomorrow.

God created us with senses, we are naturally inclined to hear, smell, taste, touch and see. We are uniquely crafted as human beings, we don't naturally trust someone or something we can't see, especially, when there is pain and uncertainty involved. When we have found ourselves engulfed and buried inside one of life's many storms, it becomes a lot easier to self-protect to avoid the suffering.

However, we need to daily ask the Lord for the grace to trust Him, no matter what our daily circumstances look like to human eyes. Because we are human, we don't see or know what He does.

In time, if we can just stand and not look at the right or left, focus on Him, we will see how His hand has been spinning us on the wheel like clay in the potter's hands.

***Isaiah 26:3-4 'You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in You. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord Himself is the Rock eternal'.***

Our heart's cry should be, "my only hope is to trust you", no matter what we face in our personal lives.

"I pray that we would be awakened to the knowledge and truth of the goodness of God in all situations, in Jesus name. (Amen).

***Psalm 37:3-5 'Trust in the Lord and do good, dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit everything you do to the Lord; trust in Him and He will help you.'***

You cannot trust without faith. The Christian life is all about faith.

Hebrews 11, says, **faith** is being sure of what we **hope** for and knowing something is real even if we do not see it. Our faith in God, and words expressed in this passage brings us comfort, when we are in the midst of a season, where we are finding it difficult to hold on.

As an emotionally driven people, we often find ourselves in peaks and valleys. It seems as if the journey of life is a constant roller coaster of highs and lows. But the song writer says, the God of the mountain is the God of the valley, the God of the good times, is the God of the bad times. When things go wrong, He will make them right .....We believe the words of this song because we have faith in Him.

Are you in a season right now where you feel like nothing exciting is happening to you? especially in this lockdown.

Are you feeling alone, hopeless or discouraged, maybe you've lost your job, a loved one or you are in the middle of health challenges? Our God knows, and He sees. Let me offer you the **hope** that keeps me going and will keep you too.

***Jeremiah 29:11 'I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord," plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"'***

If you're feeling discouraged today and having a hard time believing, just know that God is closer to you than you know. He is already come into the middle of our storm and challenges and says, I'll walk with you, if you let me.

***Proverbs 3:5 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;'***

The Lord is using this season right now to stretch, bend, purify and refine you and me, like raw gold put in fire, which comes out as pure gold after the process. God has plan for you and it's probably just round the corner. Believe it!

In the Word for today, this week, it spoke about God wanting us to become more patient, Roman 5:3, states that tribulation worketh patience. It also states that the older we get the more patient we become, (I know that for sure, I saw it with my parents and myself). This is because our perspective has changed, the problems are still there or may still be there, but we've lived long enough to say, "this too shall pass" or our trust in God is strong to say, "His grace is sufficient" instead of complaining. Patience is a virtue.

Also want to emphasis that "when we change the way we look at things, the things we look at change.

Our testimony is a strong tool for trusting God.

***Psalm 9:1 'I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart, I will tell of all Your marvellous works'.***

It is powerful to hear testimony from those who have been through the storm/challenges. But it is more powerful to hear testimony of people who are currently in the storm. It helps us and others to grow in faith and rebuilt our trust in God.

In summary:

***Romans 5:1-5 'Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into His grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance and perseverance character; and character hope. Now hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us'.***

I want to encourage you to trust in the Lord, Believe in Him, have faith, hope for a better tomorrow, change your perspective and testify even in the middle of the storm to bring many to Christ.

**Deaconess Pat Adekoya**

Prayer Meeting. - Saturday 8 August 2020