

## Survival –Part Two

We continue to survive by maintaining our devotional practices of study, singing, and praying to God (James 5:13- 14). Moreover, we should make sure that we earnestly attempt to assemble corporately to worship God with our Christian family (Hebrews 10:25). There are several reasons why worship is a necessity even when undergoing difficulty. First, we need to remember how small we are and how colossal our God is (Isaiah 40:25-29) and be reminded that God cares about us. Many times the things that overwhelm and burden us are so small in the grand scheme of things. Secondly, we need encouragement from others by being in the presence of other Christians (Hebrews 10:24). Worship helps us to sing the promises of God, read the blessings from God, and pray to God for strength in good and bad times. We must continue to worship in seasons of night, so we do not forget the God who brings joy in the morning (Psalm 30:5).

We also must receive and share God's comfort. The God we serve is the God of all grace (1 Peter 5:10) and the God of all comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3). Paul assures us that God comforts us in all of our troubles (2 Corinthians 1:4). Whenever we are going through adversity, though we do not feel anything physically reassuring us of God's presence, we can know He is with us. Through God's passages in scripture, His people in the assembly, and the providential blessings He provides, He is comforting us. We need to open our eyes and our hands to receive it and not allow ourselves to wallow in misery. We should lift our heads to the hills from where our help comes (Psalm 121:1). The comfort that we receive from God is not only for our benefit. We are to comfort others with the comfort we have received from God (2 Corinthians 1:4). God is with us in hardship so we can later be with others who are in a similar situation. When we are experiencing misfortune, we should be thinking of how we may be able to help someone else later who may face the same thing we are facing. One of the ways to make it through dark times is to get the focus off of ourselves. As Jesus was heading to the cross, He not only prayed for Himself, but He prayed for His apostles and for you and me (John 17:6-21). He prayed for Peter concerning his falling away (Luke 22:31-32). He prayed for those at the foot of the cross and promised eternal life to the penitent thief (Luke 23:34, 39-43). As Jesus was suffering on the cross, He was thinking of others. As we bear our cross, we would be wise to think of others and comfort those who are in the same or worse situations than we are.

In conclusion, if we are not currently undergoing hard times, we can be sure that they are coming. Part of being a human being in a fallen world is experiencing bad times. This reality does not have to crush us. We can make it through and retain our faith. If we are prepared beforehand, we are in a better position to withstand when the adversity comes. If you are currently undergoing life's storms, let us know how we can pray for you; do not bear it alone (Galatians 6:2). If we practice the things mentioned in the past two articles, we may come out of hardship like Job did, "blessed in the latter end more than in the beginning" (Job 42:12)!