

Lord Why My life Is Difficult *(Part 2)*

(The Lord's Training Ground)

"This is what the Lord says: As I have brought all this great calamity on this people, so I will give them all the prosperity I have promised them."
(Jeremiah 32:42)

The word of God is always victorious, always trustworthy, and full of truth. Last week, we looked back to the time that God's people were in the promise land. Although they were living in a land flowing with milk and honey, which means very rich agricultural land, still their lives were difficult. Sometimes we are in the same situation. After we come to know God through Jesus and started to have a personal relationship with Him we experience a chaos in life. But the challenge is after the difficulty comes abundance, contentment, faith, hope, love and peace. Because every difficult situation is a training ground for those who believe in God.

1. God is teaching us to be an overcomer: Like the athletes in any sports, they practice continually in order to win or to achieve better scores. ***'Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.'*** (1Corinthians 9:25) If we study the life of King David we surely notice that aspect. David, since he was a little boy was a shepherd to his father's flocks. He fought with the lions, bears, and thieves who come to take or kill his sheep. Then God sent Samuel to anoint him as King over God's people. But before he was enthroned as king, he faced Goliath and defeated him. And then after he was with continuous battles against the enemies of king Saul. He won in every battle but jealousy came to king Saul and sought to kill David. But from those struggles of David, God taught him humility, patience, friendship, perseverance, wisdom, faith and fear in God. He was taught to be an overcomer even until he was seated as king. And David was called, ***'the man after God's own heart.'***

2. God is teaching us to build faith in Him: Faith is trusting and obeying God. Once we believe in God through Jesus, we conceive faith. To start with, it is small in size and gradually it grows. But how will it grow? Faith comes from hearing or reading the word of God. ***Faith food is trials.*** Simply while we are experiencing difficulties, challenges and trials, while we apply and claim God's words and promises our faith is being build up. Our faith that God provides our needs and heals diseases gradually will grow to claim great things, and finally having the faith in God that can move mountains. King Hezekiah, a righteous king over the people of God when threatened by enemy, with faith and humility prayed to God. His faith in the true and living God removed the 185,000 army of his enemy. (Please read 2 Kings :19)

3. God is teaching us spiritual warfare: We are the children of God and continuously wage war against the evil forces. But we do not fight as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. Through Jesus our Lord, we have the divine power to demolish strongholds. ***"We demolish***

arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

(2 Corinthians 10:5) We have the powerful weapons against our enemies. But we must train ourselves to use them: First, by praying in the name of Jesus. This prayer represents our authority from God and our position with Jesus Christ who has already won the battle more than 2000 years ago. When He died on the cross and rose from the grave. Secondly, by fasting which means replacing the material food by divine and spiritual food to strengthen our bodies, asking God to give us His Spirit to be used for noble purposes. Fasting and praying most of the time we do in times of desperate need, to bring back the lost (lost sheep and backsliders), and to deliver the slaves and break bondage. But we should also train ourselves to pray and fast even in the easy days to gain strength and power so that we are always prepared and ready to fight in days of difficulties.

4. God is teaching us integrity and faithfulness to Him: Do we thank God when we are blessed, but curse Him or go away when we are in hard time? Through difficulties God can test our faithfulness towards Him. Job's life is a good example for all of us. ***"His wife said to him, 'Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!' He replied "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said."*** (Job 2:9-10) Job's experience is so hard compared to our day by day experiences. But the Lord allowed it to happen not only to test Job's loyalty and integrity but also to teach him to be more faithful to God. Until Job replied to the Lord, ***'My ears had heard on you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in the dust and ashes.'*** (Job 42:5-6)

5. God is teaching us to do His will: The most common shortcoming of the people of God is not doing His will. God wants us to go and do things by His ways, but we are stiff necked. We choose to go in the opposite direction, our own way. In the book of Jonah, God ordered Jonah to go to Nineveh but he ran from the Lord and planned to go to Tarshish. Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea that the ship threatened to break up. When the sailors found out that Jonah was responsible for the calamity, he was finally thrown into the sea, and the raging sea became calm. At that moment God prepared a big fish that engulfed Jonah. From inside the fish Jonah repented and prayed to God. And after this hard time Jonah obeyed the word of God. Sometimes we are like Jonah, making our own way and always trying to run away from God. And God whose plan is not to harm us but to give us life and future, and whose words never change will find no other way than to put us inside the fish in order to force us to do His will.

My dear and beloved: Now we come to know why our life is sometimes becoming more difficult. We ought to take heed and effectively apply in our lives the above points and consider that the Lord is teaching us certain things and principles from His Word as we agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord, uphold me with your love and grace. I commit myself to live my life for you and walk in your ways. Lord provide for me and sustains me so I can live and do your will, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.