

The Messenger

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Malachi 3:1 "Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me."

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Prepare America!

A Prophetic Word to a Nation in Crisis

Part 4 of 7

Prepare Your Soul

by Rob Winters

Approximately a week after a 9.0 magnitude earthquake devastated Japan on March 11, 2011, I abruptly awoke at 1:23 AM. I did not give it much thought, until the very next night I again suddenly awoke at precisely 1:23 AM. Knowing that the Lord was speaking through this prophetic sign, I carefully examined all of the 1:23, 1:2-3, 12:3 and 123 scriptures in the Bible. I discovered within the 123 scriptures the following clear and timely prophetic message to America. I am elaborating on this message in seven consecutive editions of *The Messenger*, this one being the fourth.

Actress Bette Davis was famous for making the following statement: "Old age is no place for sissies." Likewise, tribulation is neither for the cowardly nor the faint-hearted. Although the American church has been rather successful at producing saints, sons, and servants of God, we have failed to produce good soldiers of Jesus Christ. Consequently, many of us are not conditioned to endure hardship. (II Timothy 2:3).

Dividing Soul and Spirit

Similar to the triune Godhead, mankind is comprised of three distinct parts, namely, the spirit, the soul, and the body. Although the terms spirit and soul are often used interchangeably, they are separate and unique parts, distinguishable through God's word. Therefore, it is crucial that we prepare not only our spirits, but also our souls for the adverse times ahead (I Thessalonians 5:23, Hebrews 4:12).

The three unique, yet cooperative functions of the human spirit are intuition, conscience and communion. Independent of human intellect or reasoning, intuition is the human spirit's ability to communicate with God through the Holy Spirit. Intuition brings revelation not only regarding God's word, will and ways, but also concerning the operation and promptings of the Holy Spirit. When we abide by what the Holy Spirit

reveals through intuition, our conscience brings us confirmation through a prevailing peace. However, if we ignore our intuition, our conscience convicts and burdens us. Therefore, mottos like "let your conscience be your guide" or "follow your heart" are actually sound wisdom for believers. Communion, the third function of our spirit, refers to our worship of the Father and fellowship with the indwelling Holy Spirit (II Corinthians 12:1, Colossians 3:15, John 4:24).

The soul is the seat of human personality. Like the spirit, the soul has three distinctive, yet collaborative components, namely, the mind, the will and the emotions. The mind hosts intellect and reasoning, whereas the will exercises the power of choice. Finally, emotion is the vehicle through which the soul demonstrates love and hate or expresses joy, anger and happiness.

Spiritual transformation, from death to life, occurs through repentance from sin and the reception of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. However, the transformation of the soul begins in the mind. As we think in our hearts, so are we. In other words, we are the product of our thoughts. When our minds are renewed to think according to God's word, and trained to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, we can live in His perfect will. This type of renewed thinking not only empowers us to make choices in keeping with the Lord's ultimate purposes, but also enables us to bridle our emotions during times of trial and tribulation (Romans 12:2, Proverbs 23:7, Hebrews 11).

The Hope of the Gospel

Disciplined thoughts, choices, and emotions are essential to triumphing over life's trials. Without a doubt, the temptation to crumble in the midst of adversity can seem insurmountable, especially for the untrained. Therefore, it is imperative that our hope for deliverance has a firm foundation.

Colossians **1:23** If indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

God's covenant promises contained in scripture produce hope, which is not only a sure and steadfast anchor for our soul, but also a legitimate vehicle through which we can release our faith. Therefore, when various afflictions come our way, we can remain confident and steadfast, knowing that the Lord promises and provides deliverance for the righteous (Hebrews 6:19, Psalm 34:19).

Proverbs **12:3** "A man is not established by wickedness, but the root of the righteous cannot be moved."

Indeed, while every earthly kingdom is being shaken, we can have unshakeable faith in an unchangeable, omnipotent God. Knowing that the Lord will not forsake the righteous, nor allow His children to go hungry, we can have unwavering hope when

confronted with unemployment, bankruptcy, eviction, or even environmental disaster. Furthermore, being fully convinced of the Lord's provision for divine healing, we can receive our health benefits without the assistance of Medicare, Medicaid or Access (Hebrews 12:27-28, Psalm 37:25; 103:2-3).

The Testing of Your Faith

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for – the conviction of their realization, despite natural evidence to the contrary. In the following “123” scripture, the Apostle James instructs believers regarding the various aspects of adversity, one of which is the testing of our faith (Hebrews 11:1).

James **1:2-3** “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”

Several years ago, my father worked as an engineer for an international construction firm that was contracted to build a nuclear power plant outside of Philadelphia. One of my father's primary responsibilities during the construction process was performing a hydro-static test on two concrete vessels that would house the nuclear reactors. The vessels' walls were several feet thick and designed to withstand an earthquake. However, the internal pressure generated within the vessels during the hydro-static test was so intense that if for some reason the test had to be repeated, the vessels' longevity would have been compromised by ten years.

Likewise, the testing of our faith at times can become so rigorous and stressful that we feel as if years are being taken off of our lives. Regardless, the proving of our faith through adversity produces within us an indispensable by-product called patience. No matter how strong our faith, we can neither inherit God's promises nor overcome adversity without it. Indeed, patience is a spiritual force that keeps our faith applied until deliverance comes (Hebrews 6:12; 10:36; 12:1).

Count It All Joy

Our carnal nature attempts to persuade our soul to complain and mourn while under trial. Unfortunately, most people's thoughts, choices and emotions are conditioned to accommodate their flesh. Therefore, when confronted with hardship, many buckle under the weight of adversity by panicking, worrying, or falling into depression.

In contrast, Apostles James and Paul instructed believers to rejoice in trials and glory in tribulations. The choice to rejoice is a strategic, spiritual response to adversity. Indeed, rejoicing under fire is a bold, revolutionary act of faith that effectively decrees: “God is greater than the adversity I am experiencing, and is not only willing, but also more than able to rescue me and restore to me that which is rightfully mine” (James 1:2-3, Romans 5:3-4).

Joy, one of the fruit of the Spirit, also is a primary source of strength for our spirit and soul. The fullness of joy is imparted in the presence of the Lord. Therefore, it is

crucial that we dwell in the secret place of the Most High and abide under the shadow of the Almighty. There we can take refuge under His wings, and find shelter from epidemical, environmental and economic devastation in the days ahead (Nehemiah 8:10, Psalm 16:11, Psalm 91).

If we choose to make the Lord our dwelling place, and recondition our soul to rejoice in all things, we can be a bright light to those overwhelmed by the deepening darkness. Our joy in the Lord, despite adverse circumstances, becomes an undeniable witness for Jesus Christ - an inspiration, encouragement, and source of salvation to many (Matthew 5:16).

Consider Jesus

When weariness and the temptation to succumb to discouragement become unbearable, scripture instructs us to simply consider Jesus. Instead of feeling sorry for ourselves, we need to remember the suffering our righteous Savior endured on the cross at the hands of wicked sinners.

Hebrews **12:3** "For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls."

An often quoted Persian proverb states, "I cried because I had no shoes, until I met a man who had no feet". When we often consider the sacrifice that Jesus and other martyrs have made throughout the centuries for the Gospel's sake, instead of becoming weary and discouraged in our souls, we are transformed into energized and emboldened ambassadors for Christ (II Corinthians 5:20).

Receive God's Comfort

Despite all of our efforts to prepare our souls, we all have a breaking point. Both God and Satan know what that point is. Nevertheless, scripture reveals that the Lord will not allow us to be tested or tempted beyond our capacity, but will provide for us a way of escape, that we may be able to bear it. The way of escape that our Father of mercy provides is oftentimes the Comforter Himself - the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 10:13, Acts 9:31, John 14:16, 26 KJV).

II Corinthians **1:2-3** "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation."

Matthew **1:23** "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

Despite the darkness that is engulfing America, we must remember that God is for us and with us. Knowing that He will never leave us nor forsake us, as soldiers of the cross, we can boldly stage an advance into enemy territory to take ground for the King. The future of America depends upon it.

Prayer: *Father, transform our souls to conform to Your word and will. Prepare us that we might be steadfast, hopeful, faithful, patient, and joyful soldiers of Jesus Christ, and a light in the midst of the deepening darkness, in Jesus' name, Amen.*

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