



WORD OF FAITH INT'L CHRISTIAN CENTER

TEACHING THE WORD. DOING THE WORK. TOUCHING THE WORLD.

Victory in Troubled Times, Part 3

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Sun., September 5, 2021

Opening Summary

Don't follow your passion, follow the Lord's plan. In this teaching, Bishop Butler gives five important things Christians must do in order to have victory in troubled times. Following these principles will help you stay on track and allow God to manifest His will in your life.

Text:

- 2 Tim. 3:1: *Perilous* (Gk. *chalepos*) means *reduced strength, difficulty, dangerous*. The point of this message is to prepare you to have victory through perilous times.
- Prov. 3:6: Having God direct your path so you are at the right place at the right time can be the difference between victory and defeat. Acknowledge God first, always.

Introduction:

- Hearing and following the voice of God is absolutely critical, the closer we get to the end.
- Build up your spiritual awareness, even with perfunctory things you do regularly.
- A member of our church was doing something she routinely does, taking out the garbage. Someone held her up at gunpoint. She ran. He shot her and took her wedding ring. Thank God, she is alive and well today. We all have failed to listen to the Spirit guide us. God always warns. Spend time speaking in tongues.
- 1st Cor 14:4 Weymouth New Testament (N.T.): "He who speaks in an unknown tongue does good to himself..."

- I. You must always be looking and listening for the Holy Spirit to give you direction! This is from the time you rise.
 - A. 1 John 2:20: *Unction* (Gk. *Chrisma*) means *anointing, special endowment*.
 - B. 1 John 2:20: Weymouth N.T.: "...you have an anointing from the holy One and have perfect knowledge." You know when the enemy is up to something.
 1. So often we don't even check, particularly if we are doing routine things.
 2. God has an early warning system for you.
 3. Louisiana had early warning that a category 4 hurricane was coming. It minimized loss of life. New York said they weren't warned and forty people lost their lives.
 - C. 1 John 2:27: *Everything* includes the *smallest to the largest things*.
- II. Whatever you seem to get will always agree with the Word.
 - A. Rom. 12:2: *Prove* means *allow*. *Will* means *choice*. You must do your part.
 - B. God's plan for victory: He told Joshua to meditate the Word day and night (Jos. 1:8).
 - C. God instructed Joshua to march around the city (Jos. 6:4-5).
 - D. Meditating the Word reminds you of God's ways and encourages you to follow His ways.
- III. Follow peace (Col. 3:15).

IV. Instantly obey the voice of the Holy Ghost.

- A. Acts 10:19: The Spirit spoke to Peter.
- B. The voice of the Holy Spirit speaks to our spirit, not our head or ears.
- C. God told Peter to go to a people with whom he was forbidden to associate.
- D. Acts 10:44-46: Those people were filled with the Holy Ghost.

V. Follow The Holy Spirit, not your passion!

- A. Your passion is what interests you, what you want to do or what you like.
- B. Paul is one of the greatest people who walked the planet. But, like all men or women greatly used of God, he made mistakes.
 - 1. Paul is called to the Gentiles, not the Jews (Rom. 10:1).
 - a. He said he is called to the Gentiles (Eph. 3:2-8).
 - b. His passion is to his people, but God called Him to the Gentiles (Acts 26:16-18).
 - 2. Following his passion is going to give him some lumps and bumps.
 - a. Acts 19:21 *Purposed* (Gk.: *tithemi*) means *settled*.
 - b. Acts 19:21 Weymouth: "...Paul decided in his own mind..."
 - c. We can be conflicted in our spirit. God can lead us to do one thing and at the same time we can have a passion to do a different thing. Paul tries to do both.
 - 3. Acts 20:22: His passion was pushing him very strong.
 - a. Weymouth: "And now, impelled by a sense of duty, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there..."
 - b. Acts 20:23: The Holy Spirit was warning him. Weymouth: "Except that the Holy Spirit, at town after town, testifies to me that imprisonment and suffering are awaiting me."
 - c. Acts 20:24-25: A person can be dedicated to the wrong thing.
 - 4. Acts 21:4, 8-11: He will go to the Gentiles, but it will be an altered route. The further off course you go the more you open the door to a stack-attack.
 - 5. Acts 24:17: Why did Paul do this? After helping everyone else, Paul wants to do something for his own people. His passion is what is driving his choices.
 - a. Paul goes to Jerusalem and is beaten half to death.
 - b. He is imprisoned for two years. How many people could he have helped?
 - 6. Acts 24:27: Paul is delayed for two years.
 - a. Satan used a distraction/his passion to get Paul off the field (Acts 4:19).
 - b. If Jesus is your Lord, your desire submits to His will.
 - 7. Acts 23:11: If you get off track, God will use you where you are.
 - a. The Gentiles are in Rome.
 - b. God wants people to have the opportunity to choose Him.
- C. Don't follow your passion, follow the Holy Ghost, your calling, your assignment.
- D. I wanted to practice law, but God wanted me to preach. When I preach, I get to lay out my case for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Closing Summary

Follow God's plan, not your passion. Being driven by your passion will cause you to miss the mark, missing out on all the people that could be touched by your life in the assignment God has for you. Take advantage of the early warning system within you by praying in the Holy Ghost, speaking in tongues so that you are always in the right place at the right time. As you follow these vital principles, you are sure to have victory during troubled times.