

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

LIVING IN THE CRUCIBLE

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FACING YOUR PROBLEMS

God wants to open your eyes so that you can see yourself the way He sees you. As you begin to grow in Christ, He will deal with you and that refining process can be painful. Nevertheless, God will not abandon you. **Philippians 1:6**

Christianity is not about feeling good all the time. There will be mountaintop experiences where you feel the presence of the Lord and you just don't want it to end; yet, there will also be low times complete with trials which fill you with sorrow. God wants you to praise Him in the good times as well as the bad times. **Job 13:15**

God is more interested in developing your character quotient (CQ) than He is in developing your intelligence quotient (IQ). Your CQ is the point at which you are willing to compromise your integrity. **Hebrews 12:5-13**

You can count on God in all situations even if the circumstances look grim. Panic is a tool of the Devil but God's solution involves love and peace. **Romans 8:35-39**

THE CRUCIBLE

It is easy to look back and see how God led you through a crisis but let's not forget what it was like to live in the crucible. It was tough; you didn't sleep well and food lost its appeal. It was a struggle just to live from day to day but you got through it with the Lord's help. Trials may result from poor decisions or through no fault of your own, nevertheless, there is nothing that happens unless God allows it.

God told the human race to subdue the earth. (Genesis 1) This command was repeated after the flood. (Genesis 9) The people ignored God's command and decided to build a great city. God intervened and confused their language, and in the resulting crisis, God scattered humanity according to His will. **Genesis 11:1-9**

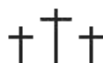
If you are stubborn, God will allow the Devil to afflict you. The newly formed church in Jerusalem failed to act upon the command of Jesus to go out into the world. God used Saul to persecute and scatter the church. **Acts 8:1, 4**

God allowed the Devil to kill and imprison Christians and many lost their homes. If you would have interviewed them, they would have been despondent and unable to see how any good could come of the negative circumstances, yet we know that the Gospel message traveled far and wide as a result of this persecution.

GOD IS IN CONTROL

God is in charge of all the details of your life and will use whatever method He deems necessary to form your character quotient.

Jesus used sparrows as an example comparing the value God places upon human beings. Two sparrows were sold for less than a penny. They were worth almost nothing and yet Jesus taught that not one sparrow dies unless God allows it. **Matthew 10:29**



Our Savior went on to say that God even knows the exact number of hairs on your head. This means that God deeply cares for us and every little detail. **verse 30**

The Lord is looking for people who are willing to listen and obey. God is not necessarily looking to use something cute and fuzzy to form your character. More than likely He will use a negative circumstance to build your faith and form you into the person He wants you to be. You need to line up with God's program. When God speaks, follow through with obedience. It's that simple!

MOVING FROM TOUGH TIMES

When you're in the midst of a struggle, you don't have the luxury of knowing the outcome. Often we read about the struggles King David faced, the fiery furnace that awaited Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego or the den of hungry lions in which Daniel was placed and we know their miraculous outcome but that didn't make their struggle any easier. The situation in that moment was bleak but they learned to trust and obey even if they didn't understand what God was doing in their lives.

If you are resisting the Lord, stop what you are doing and find out what He is trying to teach you. Jesus purposely waited until Lazarus died. When Jesus arrived at the grave, He already knew that Lazarus would be raised from the dead. Martha could not see God in the situation; she was focused on the corpse of her dead brother and the smell from the grave. In the end Martha was finally able to believe Jesus and trust that He would reverse death into a spectacular victory. **John 11:1-45**

There is hope if you're living in confusion and fumbling your way through tough times. Have you asked God for discernment regarding your situation?

God's program is happening; make your peace with it because it is happening whether you like it or not! Don't fight God; instead, allow Him to lead you. **John 14:18**

If you want to grow in the Kingdom of God and increase in godly character, just follow the words of Jesus. It's that simple. **John 15:5-8**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!