

When Tragedy Strikes

- Tragedy: sudden loss of health, death of a loved one, major financial setback, pestilence, drought famine, war, tornado flood, etc.
- Without warning crash suddenly into our life
- What happens next varies on spiritual maturity, spiritual mental health, and depth of trust in God.
- Some, like Job, can take such tragedy in stride.

Tragedy: All in a Single Day

- *Messenger came to Job and said,*
- *oxen and the donkeys taken and servants dead*
- *While he was still speaking, another also came:*
- *fire of God fell from heaven burned up sheep and the servants, I alone have escaped to tell you!"*
- *While he was still speaking*
- *Chaldeans raided the camels and took them and killed the servants I alone have escaped to tell you*
- *While he was still speaking,*
- *Your sons and daughters were in brother's house, a great wind came and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; I alone have escaped to tell you!" Job 1:14-19*

Job Lost Everything in a Single Day

- Job had only moments to process all of this.
- His initial response revealed maturity
- *Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. 21 And he said: “Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.” 22 In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong. Job 1:20-22*

Tragedy: A Few Weeks/Months Later

- *struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. 8 And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes. Job 2:7-8*
- Job's wife was unprepared and responded in a very different way.
- *Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!"*
- Job tries to help her by showing who she imitates
- *But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.*

David Faced a Similar Disaster

- *Amalekites attacked Ziklag and burned it with fire, taken captive the women and those who were there, did not kill anyone, but carried them away. 3 So David and his men came to the city, ...Then David and the people lifted up their voices and wept, until they had no more power to weep.*
- *The people wanted to stone David*
- *Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God. 1 Sam 30:1-6*
- *David strengthened himself in the Lord his God*

Job, David and Paul knew a Secret

- *I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am 12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. 13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. Phil 4:11-14 The main ingredient in this secret:*
- *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:6-7*

The Foundation of the Secret

- It is based on our previous relationship with God.
- When we know that we walk with God...
- *All things work together for good...*
- The prepared and unprepared...
- *Unless the Lord had been my help, **My soul would soon have settled in silence.** 18 If I say, "My foot slips," Your mercy, O Lord, will hold me up. 19 **In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul.** Ps. 94:17-19*
- *settled in silence. (depression, gloom, woe,)*
- *Your comforts delight my soul.*
- This is the secret: Job, David, Paul, Jesus, etc.

Perfect Peace Founded on Trust

- *You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You. 4 Trust in Lord forever, For in Yah, the Lord, is everlasting strength. Isa. 26:3-4*
- Perfect peace is based on:
- Mind fixed and focused on God
- Trusting in God
- Now Trusting in the Prince of Peace (Jesus

Prince of Peace Control My Will

- *Prince of peace control my will*
- *Bid this struggling heart be still*
- *Bid my fears and doubtings cease*
- *Hush my spirit into peace.*

- *May Thy will, not mine be done;*
- *May Thy will and mine be one;*
- *Chase these doubtings from my heart*
- *Now thy perfect peace impart*

Let the Peace of God RULE

- *And let the peace of God **rule** in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. (Col. 3:15).*
- *the “activity of the umpire whose office at the games is to direct, arbitrate and decide the contest.”*
- The secret” learn to use “*peace of God*” as the umpire to guard against things spiraling out of control.
- “*God’s peace,*” can direct powerful emotions and bring order back into our hearts.
- With God’s peace as the umpire powerful emotions of grief, bitterness fear and anguish will respond like Job. Those who don’t have this umpire have have nothing to fight them with.

Jesus had God's Perfect Peace

- *"Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."*
43 Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. 44 And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. Luke 22:42-44
- *After Thy will be done...in perfect peace*
- *looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*
Heb 12:2

Learning the Secret

- When we learned to walk, talk, drive etc.
- First awkward and uncomfortable then natural.
- *keep in perfect peace, mind is stayed he trusts You.*
- It can only be done when mind is “*stayed on Him.*”
stayed – “to lean upon, uphold, rest, or support.”
- *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and turn away from evil. Pr. 3:5-7*
- Must learn to let go of own understanding.
- Must stop being wise in our own eyes.

God's Perfect Peace Guarding

- *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*
Ps 23:4
- Shadrach Meschach and Abednego
- Daniel before the Lion's Den
- *Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented — Heb 11:36-38*

- *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:6-7*
- Stop being continually anxious ... break it up with prayer and supplications
- Extract the request out of the anxiety.
- Trust God that He will take it from there.
- Continue that process ... Peace will guard hearts.

- He will never fail or forsake us.
- The Lord is my helper I will not fear
- God is able to do
- Exceedingly
- Abundantly
- Above
- All we ask or think.