

LIFE “IN THE PITS!”

Facts that we are forced to look at today is that we're all going to have some rough times ahead. The world is changing rapidly. What was similar and comfortable is flying out the window at supersonic speed. The economy is coming under attack and money can be hard to earn. Jobs are at an all time low and may be hard to find. Marriages are coming under difficulties and are rocky. Children are rebellious, killings, thefts, drinking and drugs are rocketing sky high and frequently, we hear about people who are committing suicide because they had no hope. No matter where you look, people are battling hard times in their lives and it is nearly impossible to keep a positive attitude when the house is falling down upon your head.

So what's the answer? Is all lost? Should we stick our head in the sand like the ostrich and hope it will pass us by—because the reality is, it won't! When your life is “in the pits,” how do you go about developing a positive, winning attitude? How can you keep a cheerful attitude, put a smile on your face and believe God for a miracle when before you can catch your breath, another situation happens that spells disaster.

Do you go out and buy another self-help book written by worldly people? Do you join a meditation class, dabble in the occult, or get involved in demonic activities to help you? No! When you're in deep water, don't stand there until a tidal wave overtakes you! Go to the One who does have the answers. Go to the One who will give you peace and strength to cope through it all. Go to the One who can turn the troubled waters into rivers of life! Go to the One who turns your mountains into mole hills. God is the One who can take the negatives and turn them into positive helps.

Discouragement you will encounter in the pit and it can be devastating if entertained. It can rob you of all hope and strength. It can drain your courage quick as a blink! Discouragement is the opposite of courage. The “dis” in front of a word tells us that it is opposite from the root word. So if you are discouraged, you are walking around without any courage. You are a prime target for the enemy and he loves taking pot shots at you. When you are discouraged you are walking around in a state of weakness and are greatly disabled. Despair robs you of your strength. When you are struggling with that “empty” feeling, you lose hope there is nothing left inside with which to fight. The enemy has you right where he wants you; his foot upon your neck!

Negative “stinking” thinking you'll find in the pit. One of the biggest battlefields is your mind. Satan loves to throw at you out and out lies, half-truths, manipulative, deceptive words, which are contrary to the Word of God and designed to put you in bondage. He is constantly attacking your mind with “brain teasers” that can put you down and out for the count. He tries to use your mind to tear down

God's truths and promises that will lift you up out of the pit and put your feet on solid ground. Remember, Satan is skilled at using confusion, disappointments, self-pity, anger, guilt, shame, fear and countless tactics to wear you down and push you toward the pit. Our counterattack is God' Word which tells us, *Be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds.*

The dictionary defines courage as: "An ingrained capacity for meeting strain or stress with fortitude and resilience." God has given us every tool we need to overcome adversity and He is by our side in each and every fight. Courage can be silent as the sunlight, invisible as air, soundless as an oak tree in the forest, quiet as a prayer. Courage has no army and no banners; courage has no drums, but, softly when the heart asks God for help, courage always comes! You are partnered with God

Hopelessness you will find in the pit along with helplessness, they are bed fellows designed to steal your peace and joy. Disobedience is in the pit and you'll also find rebellion and deceit and the list goes on and on. The "pit" is NOT in God's plans for your life.

SO, HOW DO I AVOID MY LIFE BEING IN THE PIT?

Seek God with all your heart. When you go after God, God goes after you. His heart's desire for you is to be filled and satisfied as you seek after the things of God. Matthew 5:6 says, *Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*"

You have the choice to be filled and delight yourself in the blessing of God or you can run around with an empty tank, a downcast soul and a broken heart.

Make right choices; seek life not death. Seek the delights of a loving God, not the pit. When you hunger and thirst after God, your attitude will change. Righteousness brings health. Courage brings faith. Submission to God, a clean heart and a right spirit bring life. The world says you are a "loser", but God says you are a "Winner!"

The difficult times are inevitable, and yet, those whose hearts seek the Lord and who faithfully respond to God's Word in their daily lives, there will be stability. God is faithful to keep those whose hearts are stayed upon Him. You will withstand the storms of life when they blow across your path!

GOD IS THE ANSWER TO GAINING AND SUSTAINING SUCCESS.