

FUNDAMENTALS OF FAITH

The Only Way

I. You can't use your faith to change the danger and hostility of this environment, but you can use your faith to experience victory in the midst of it

A. The environment of this earth is hostile. perilous times will come and we can't change that-2Tm3:1-In the last days perilous (dangerous, difficult, fierce) times shall come; **Mt24:3**-Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? 4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. 5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. 6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled (frightened, wail-express sorrow audibly): for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. 8 All these things are the beginning of sorrows (pain, travail) 9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and you shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. 10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. 11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12 And because iniquity (wickedness) shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure (under trials hold fast to one's faith) unto the end, the same shall be saved 14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come

1. We won't turn this Earth into Heaven-That can't happen until the enemy is removed-1Pt5:8,Is24:6,Rm5:12
2. We're not going to get so developed in prayer, authority, and faith that we stop perilous times from coming and rid this earth of the curse and the enemy-It's wrong to think you can and futile to try; We're not going to keep something from coming to pass that God said would come to pass

B. You can't stop perilous times from coming or rid this environment of its hostility but you can be kept if you'll live by faith

1. Scripture bears it out that it's possible to be in the middle of something, but not be touched by it-Dn3:25-I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt... 27 upon whose bodies the fire had no power... Blessed by the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel and delivered his servants that trust in him.. **Dn6:22**- My God has sent his angel, and hath shut the lions mouths, that they have not hurt me...23 No manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God
2. God didn't deliver them by removing them from the hostile environment-He kept them in the midst of the it-**Jn17:15**-I pray not that you should take them out of the world, but that you should keep (guard) them from the evil (hurtful, bad); **Lk10:19**- I give you power to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you; **Pr3:25**-Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it comes. 26 For the Lord will be your confidence (flank), and shall keep your foot from being taken

C. If we'll learn how to maneuver in this hostile environment, in these perilous times we can live victoriously in the midst of them

1. Jesus told us in these times to not be troubled which means our faith is intact-Fear makes you vulnerable

II. Living by faith is the only way to be secure in this environment – Knowing how to live by faith and doing it

A. Faith makes it possible to live in a hostile environment but not be defeated by it-Jer17:5-Cursed be the man that trusts in man, and makes flesh his arm, and whose heart departs from the Lord. 6 For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good comes; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited 7 Blessed is the man that trust in the Lord whose hope is in the Lord 8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreads out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf will be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, nether shall cease from yielding fruit

1. Believing wrong makes you vulnerable in a hostile environment-CEV-They will dry up like a bush in a salty desert soil; **NLT**-They are like stunted shrubs in the desert, with no hope for the future; **VO**-He will see no good thing come his way
2. The issue is not the environment, the issue is the faith-What matters the most is not where you're at, but who you're hooked to; You can be in a hostile environment, but if you're hooked the right source you can flourish – Faith makes the environment you're in a non-issue

B. Throughout human history times have changed, generations have come and gone, crises of all different kinds have emerged, but faith in God has always produced victory in the lives of people that live by it-It transcends times, generations and trouble-It was the victory then and it's still the victory today-**Hb11:11**-Through faith Sarah received strength to conceive seed; 29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea; 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down 31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not 32 For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and of Barak and of Samson and of Jephthae; of David, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again; and others were tortured not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection

- C. Living by faith is the only way to be secure in any environment-I'm going to trust Him, believe what He says, say what he says and do that He says and this is what secures me
1. People are looking to natural things to be secure-Nothing you do in the natural will secures you; Legal reform, political reform, economic reform; The right politician, saving money, buying guns won't make you secure-**Ps146:3**-*Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help; Ps44:6*-*For I will not trust in my bow, neither shall my sword save me. But you have saved us from our enemies; Ps141:8*-*Mine eyes are unto thee O God the Lord: in you is my trust*
 2. If we experience victory in these hostile times it'll be the Lord's doing-**Ps124:2**-*If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when men rose up against us: 3 Then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us*
 3. The only way to access His help is to live by faith-**Ps37:40**-*The Lord shall help them, and deliver them; he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him; Ps28:7*-*The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him and I am helped*
 4. You can do everything in the natural but if you don't live by faith and access the Lord's help it won't be enough-Everything in the natural can be wrong but if you know how to access the His help by faith you can be okay-**Ps127:1**-*Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman wakes but in vain*

III. NOTES

- We can't secure our children's future but we can teach them to live by faith
- 7 fundamentals of faith-1) Casting care 2) Calling things that be not 3) Resist steadfast in faith 4) Casting down imaginations 5) Not moved by what I see and feel 6) Feeding your faith 7) Faith comes by hearing the Lord
- Things a politician does can be undone, money can run out, somebody can have more guns;
- The fact that we're not troubled in the midst of this is our witness because we are not to be troubled like the world The enemy is here, the curse is here, death is here and that won't change until Jesus returns
- There wasn't a house that the stream didn't beat upon-There was a house that it didn't affect
- Faith hooks me to a supernatural source and therefore gives me the ability to get supernatural results in this natural world-A tree producing in hot and dry times is beyond natural law and not naturally explainable
- Faith is specific to each situation-Faith to be healed-Acts; We have faith to be victorious
- Another part of the answer is that God is not completely controlling everything that happens here-The majority of the planet is lying under the power of the evil one, yielding to him and giving him place to steal, kill and destroy-**2Cor4:4-Satan is the god of this world; 1Jn5:19-AC-The whole world is under the power of the evil one**
- Before Satan was here there was no evil and when he's removed in the future there'll be no evil-Don't blame God
- Mt7:14-Few will find it in terms of the whole number
- In preaching victory people accuse us of preaching that if you live by faith you'll never have a challenge, trial, problem or attack
- Ps21:7-For the king trusteth in the Lord, and through the mercy of the most High he shall not be moved; Ps32:10-Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; but he that trusteth in the Lord mercy shall compass him about; Ps34:8-O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him; Pr16:20-Whoso trusteth in the Lord happy is he; Is26:3-Thou will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee; Ps5:11-But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them every shout for joy, because thou defednest them; Ps17:7-O thou that savest by they right hand them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them; Ps18:30-He is a buckler to wll those that trust; Ps31:9-Oh how great is thy goodness, which you have laid up for them that fear thee; which you have wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men; Ps34:22-None of them that trust him shall be desolate; Ps37:3-Turst in the Lord and do good; so shalt you dwell in the land and verily you shall be fed; Ps37:40-The Lord shall help them, and deliver them; he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him; Ps64:10-The righteous shall be glad in the Lord, and shall trust hin him; Ps115:11-You that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord: he is their help and their shield; Pr29:25-Who so putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe; Pr30:5-He is a shield unto them that put their trust in him; Ps22:4-Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted and you did deliver them; Ps28:7-The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him and I am helped
- This idea that we are going to get the majority of people saved and turn this Earth into Heaven is not scriptural-The earth will be turned into a glorious place again, but that'll be the new earth when the enemy is removed-**2Pt3:12-13**
- **How are you going to live in this hostile environment and overcome and live in victory? Faith is our victory**
- Get me out of here shouldn't be our prayer because it wasn't Jesus' prayer for us-We were made for this
- **Mt24:3**-*The disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?* 4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. 5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. 6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled (frightened, wail-express sorrow audibly): for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. 8 All these things are the beginning of sorrows (pain, travail) 9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and you shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. 10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. 11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12 And because iniquity (wickedness) shall abound, the love of many shall wax

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- 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection (hard hearted) trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent (without self-control), fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, high-minded (inflated with pride), lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: for such turn away