

G:love 2 God...What Are You Doing!

Focused Living Ministries

A shipwreck survivor was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed for God to rescue him and for days scanned the horizon for help, but God was silent. So he gave up hope and built a hut to protect him from the elements. One day he returned from scavenging for food and found his hut in flames. In disbelief and anger he cursed, "God! How could you do this to me?" The next day he spied a ship approaching the island to rescue him! "How did you know I was here?" asked the greatly encouraged man. "We saw the smoke of your burning hut," they replied.



We quickly become discouraged and lose heart when things are negative. We need to learn that God is at work in our lives, especially in the midst of pain and suffering. **Where in your life is your hut on fire? How might God be using this to bring glory to His name, the Gospel of grace to others and to deepen your growth?**

God promised Abraham that through his family He would bless all the nations of the world (Gen 12:1-4) by providing Jesus, the Messiah. But God also promised that his extended family would experience the great suffering of slavery in Egypt for 400 years (Gen 15:13-14; Gen 37-50). However, God's people grew strong through the adversity by multiplying from 70 (Gen 46:27) to 2.5 million! During this time of adversity God was teaching His people that He would do the work while they responded to His hand (His character) in their lives. Carefully read **Exodus 1:1-2:10, 23-25**. Where do you see God teaching His people the following highlighted principles adapted from Chuck Swindoll? How do the truths of these principles motivate you to respond with a whole heart to the work of His hand?

HARD TIMES DO NOT ERASE GOD PROMISES

(Ex 1:11-12; Deut 8:2-3) Why does God allow hard times to come?

(James 1:2-4; I Peter 1:6-9) What are the positive outcomes of difficult times? What are the advantages of adversity?

(Exodus 1:20) Where do you see God's goodness amidst adversity?

HARSH TREATMENT DOES NOT ESCAPE GOD NOTICE

(Ex 1:8-16; II Tim 3:10-17) Our world/culture are increasingly intolerant of God's people who dare to take a stand to live out their faith. Have you experienced God's faithfulness amidst intolerance?

(Exodus 1:17-22) What determined the faithful response of the midwives to God's hand instead of Pharaoh's command? Who was their ultimate audience? How would you describe your fear for the Lord as of late? Has a deep reverence for His absolute holiness determined your actions and attitudes as of late?

(Judges 2:10-17; Ex 20:20; Prov 9:10) The '*fear of the Lord*' is a deep, heartfelt reverence for God's holiness and love to the point of obedience. It's not about what I see, it's about what God says! Why is it important to develop and model a deep fear of the Lord to your family/friends? What specific negative things will happen when we simply go through the motions?

HEAVY TESTS DO NOT ECLIPSE GOD'S CONCERN

(Ex 2:23-25; 3:7-9; 6:5-8; II Tim 1:12) How has God demonstrated that He is indeed concerned to the point of action regarding life situation though your circumstances have not changed?

Hudson Taylor "*It doesn't matter how great the pressure is; what really matters is where the pressure lies. Whether it comes between you and God or presses you nearer His heart.*"

TAG TEAMS What principle will help you to respond more effectively to God's hand as He powerfully works in and around you?

ASSIGNMENT In prep for next week, I will...