
Satan Is Out to Destroy Your Faith!

By David Wilkerson

June 7, 2010 Dearly Beloved:

JESUS WILL CALM OUR STORMS!

"He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still" (Psalm 107:29).

For over twentyfive years I have been warning of a coming storm that would shake the nations. I have published prophetic books, including *Racing Toward Judgment*, *The Vision* and *America's Last Call*. My voice was but one of many. Now we see it all coming to pass before our eyes. Things are happening so fast!

I saw the news reports of the riots in Greece, with people setting fire to banks. There have been warnings these riots could spread throughout the European nations.

My first reaction was a sense that prophecy was being fulfilled. My cry was, "Oh, God, have mercy!" It was fearful and foreboding to see. I believe many Christians thought as I did: "The coming of Christ is near." Then, suddenly, a great calm came upon me — a calming peace. A still, small voice whispered, "For all who trust him, the Lord will calm the storms."

The Psalmist tells us that those who delight greatly in the Lord "shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord" (Psalm 112:7).

God sits as King over the flood. He is in full control of all events. And he sits as King over all the personal storms and floods coming at you. Events in our lives often come suddenly; clouds grow black and we battle inner fears while facing fiery trials.

This walk of faith is no easy road. Sometimes we tell the Lord, "This is too much. It looks simply impossible to get through it all." At times our souls cry out, "Lord, save me, I'm sinking!" And the sinking part is real; we can look at our circumstance and say, "To be delivered from this is humanly impossible."

Beloved, we are at the place we must be willing to literally die to everything. **AS LONG AS YOUR HEART IS SET ON KNOWING JESUS IS WITH YOU—KNOWING YOU ARE LOVED, THAT GOD HAS SWORN TO BE YOUR KEEPER WHEN YOU ARE OVERWHELMED IN YOUR DARKEST HOUR—YOU WILL HEAR HIM SAY, "PEACE! BE CALM. DON'T PANIC."**

Is anything too hard for him? Remember, weeping endures for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

Even as the world trembles, our mission outreaches go on to the poor, the needy, the widowed and fatherless worldwide. For information, go to www.worldchallenge.org/missions. Thank you for your faithfulness.

In Christ,
DAVID WILKERSON

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Newsletter: Satan Is Out to Destroy Your Faith!

June 7, 2010 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward" (Hebrews 10:35). If you are a Christian, you are in a fierce war. In fact, you're in a lifeanddeath battle for your faith. Satan is determined to shipwreck and destroy the faith of all of God's elect. And the stronger your faith, the greater will be his attack against it.

You see, unshakable faith in the Lord causes hell to rage. Nothing poses a greater threat to Satan's kingdom than a Christian who is unmovable in faith. Why? It is by faith and its released power that Satan's kingdom is subdued. By faith, righteousness is born and demonic fires are quenched. God's promises are obtained and the mouths of lions are shut.

By faith, God's faithful escape the edge of the sword. Out of weakness they are made strong. They become brave in battle, turning the devil's army to flight. They endure mockery, beatings, stonings. If they are locked in jail they sing. Simply put, faith sustains those who possess it!

Paul warned Timothy that in times of trial some would cast aside their faith: "Some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck" (1 Timothy 1:19). He added that Satan would attempt to "overthrow the faith of some" (2 Timothy 2:18). Therefore Paul charged Timothy to fight a determined warfare, "holding faith, and a good conscience" (1 Timothy 1:19).

The apostle Peter came under a ferocious attack against his faith. His trust in Jesus so enraged hell that Satan asked permission to sift him to see if he would stand. "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren" (Luke 22:31-32).

Some reading this message are in the storm of your life. Jesus' disciples endured pounding waves in a stormtossed boat, while their Master lay fast asleep. Finally, as the storm threatened to overwhelm the boat, they cried out to Jesus, accusing him of not caring about their fate. "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" (Mark 4:38). Jesus calmed the storm but was incredulous at his disciples' lack of faith. He asked, "Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?" (4:40).

Maybe right now you are facing a terrible storm in life. Your troubles seem only to accelerate: money problems, marriage problems, job troubles, enemies coming at you like pounding waves to sink you. A sea of trouble rages inside you, but the Lord seems to be sleeping through it all. Tell me, has your faith been sapped? Is it ebbing slowly away with each new disappointment? Do you say in your heart, "God, don't you care? Will you let me go down in this storm?"

It is for just such a time that Jesus spoke these awesome words: "Shall not God avenge [protect] his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:7-8).

Note Jesus' question here: Will he find faith in his people as they endure days of darkness and oppression? In recent years I've wondered whether Jesus would ask such a question today. For decades multitudes flocked to churches. But what Jesus is really asking is, "Will the faith of these hold out when the shaking storms come?" Our troubles can be heaped so high, and the shaking of nations can come so swiftly, that some will lose hope and give up. I ask you: Will Jesus find faithfulness in *your* troubling hour?

God has given us a powerful weapon to use against Satan's attacks on our faith. Here is our weapon: We are not to try to figure everything out. Rather, *we are to set our eyes on "the great cloud of witnesses" already in glory who have made it through with their faith intact.* "Wherefore seeing we also are encompassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1).

What a picture. This verse depicts an army of victorious saints from every era, beholding us watchfully like a crowd in the bleachers. They're wearing crowns of righteousness and waving palms as they cheer us on in our race: "Run with patience! We fought to the death and didn't fall. God kept us, our faith prevailed. The truth works: We won! We are overcomers. So you keep on. You can overcome in hard times."

Noah is among this great cloud of witnesses. Think of how long his battle lasted. His testimony tells us, "I held on for 120 years in spite of violence, rampant sin and mockery. You can overcome, too."

To hold onto faith in these present times, I believe we must be alert to three lies the enemy brings against us.

1. Satan misrepresents the Lord's refining process. All the prophets foretold of God's people going into the refiner's fire. "I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried" (Zechariah 13:9). "He is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: and he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness" (Malachi 3:23).

When silver or gold is refined by fire, all dross comes to the surface. This includes all impurities, alloys, lesser metals, dirt, little spots and speckles of waste.

Likewise, as we sit under God's Word and let its light shine on our hearts, all impurities are brought to the surface. Throughout this process, unbelief is being separated from us by the Lord's refining fire. Yet it is during such times, when God is purifying us, that Satan brings his worst lies to accuse us. He tries to place our focus on our impurities rather than on the Lord's unconditional love.

2. Satan tries to shipwreck our faith by distorting these loving chastenings of the Lord. The devil will try to convince you that your present chastening is from God's displeasure at you. He wants you to

believe it's all happening because of God's anger. But the New Testament speaks of chastisement as a kind of "educational correction." Consider this famous passage from Hebrews:

"Despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then ye are bastards, and not sons.

"Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

"Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; and make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed" (Hebrews 12:5-13).

Jesus spoke of chastisement when he declared to the apostle John, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent" (Revelation 3:19).

Likewise, the writer of Proverbs says, "My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction: for whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth" (Proverbs 3:11-12). Indeed, when the author of Hebrews says God "scourgeth every son he receiveth," the meaning suggests a "rod of correction."

Finally, Paul adds this important word: "When we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world" (1 Corinthians 11:32).

Right now, what you are going through as a child of God is no accident. It is not some isolated calamity or trial. Every test and fiery trial is under your Father's careful scrutiny. And there is a purpose in it all, "for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness."

Chastisement never feels joyful. It is grievous, as if a strange thing is happening to us. But afterward it produces in us the peaceable fruit of righteousness. Yet this happens only for those who allow themselves to be trained by chastisement.

3. Satan will lie to you when chastening includes suffering that continues with seemingly no answer. Your ongoing trial may involve physical suffering, unemployment, children who rebel, faithless friends, mental distress, turmoil or pain. As you endure day after day, Satan will whisper to you as he did to Job: "The righteous don't suffer. If God heard you — if he saved you and his promises are true — you should have been rescued immediately. Where is your God? Is this what faith gets you?"

Beloved, do not cast your faith aside! Satan is a liar. You are suffering *because* God loves you, *because* he cares. Think about it: You asked the Lord to make you more like him. Only he knows what that will require. He knows your suffering, and he won't let you be destroyed by it. In fact, he knows just when to make a way of escape for you. He won't act until that appointed time, and "will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Be assured, God has everything under control. The pain, the lingering sickness, the prayer that seems to go unanswered — he knows all about them. And he knows why he hasn't lifted your trial before now. As happened with Paul, he is using the "thorn" in your flesh to work toward your blessing. Indeed, the very thing you want so much — the answer you believe is so necessary — might be something God knows isn't best for you. If he ultimately says, "No," you must yield, knowing he is preserving your soul and answering you in a much better way unknown to you.

Through it all, the great cloud of witnesses urges you, "Continue fighting the battle with faith. Your hands hang down, but he will provide the faith to lift them up. Your knees are feeble, but he will strengthen them. Don't turn aside. Stay in the race!"

Multitudes fall for the devil's lies when they are chastened. They allow a root of bitterness to enter their heart and soon are nurturing an anger toward God: "Why did the Lord allow this? I tried so hard to please him, trusting him so much. Why is he letting me down?" God has warned us about such times: "Don't let this happen. Instead, be diligent, be careful, holding onto your confidence. It has great recompense of reward."

The Lord desires a people who will hold onto faith even if they suffer the loss of all things. Consider this powerful word from the author of Hebrews:

"Call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions; partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used. For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

"Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul" (Hebrews 10:32-39).

Here is a description of a people greatly afflicted after they were born again. They lost all their goods and possessions because of their testimony. Yet their faith kept them joyful.

I have been told of a Christian multimillionaire — one of Texas's most successful businessmen — who lost it all. When hard times hit he struggled just to put food on the table. But God put his heart at rest, and the man learned to see the Lord as his sole provider. He and his family have not gone hungry.

Sometimes I wonder if the days of our American lifestyle are numbered. If that day comes, all of us will be affected, all of us feeling pain. And such a day will reveal much about God's people. You see, it's easy to talk about faith when all is well. It's a different matter when we feel prolonged pain. That is when we are called to take the spoiling of our goods joyfully.

Paul kept his faith through good times and bad. In his final days Paul could boast, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7). Think about Paul's testimony at that point. He could say, "Satan sent messengers to fight me in Jerusalem, Damascus, Asia, Ephesus, Antioch, Corinth. But I kept the faith.

"He tried to sink me in the stormtossed Mediterranean. Three times I was shipwrecked, bobbing in the deep night and day. But I kept the faith.

"Four times the Jews beat me with thirtynine stripes. I have been cast into prison, three times beaten with rods, stoned and left for dead. But I kept the faith.

"I've faced peril in the country and the city, in the wilderness and the sea. I've been robbed by my own countrymen. I've been placed in peril by false brethren. But I kept the faith.

"I've been so weary at times, full of bodily pains, enduring sleepless nights. I've been hungry and thirsty, cold and naked, heavily laden with cares of all kinds. Yet I kept the faith.

"I've been troubled, perplexed on every side, distressed and persecuted, but never cast down. I've never been shaken in my faith. Through it all, my trust in the Lord has never been destroyed."

I leave you with words spoken to sustain us in the days ahead. "Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous. Surely he shall not be moved forever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord. His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies.

"He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth forever; his horn shall be exalted with honor. The wicked shall see it, and be grieved" (Psalm 112:4, 610).

"The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore" (121:78).

"In the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock" (27:5).

The Lord says to all his children: "Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me" (50:15). May you remain faithful to call on him in your trial. Cast your cares on him always!

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