

PEACE IN THE CRISIS

1 Chronicles 12 – 23 Now these are the numbers of the divisions equipped for war, who came to David at Hebron, to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD... **32** Of the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do, their chiefs *were* two hundred; and all their kinsmen were at their command.

Romans 12:12 – Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Hebrews 4:16 – Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

A crisis is any event or period that leads to an unstable and/or dangerous situation affecting an individual, group, or all of society. A crisis creates negative changes, happens by surprise, and leaves little time for decision-making. The results can be disorganization, hopelessness, sadness, confusion, and panic.

Isaiah 8 – 12 “You are not to say, ‘It is a conspiracy!’ In regard to all that this people call a conspiracy, and you are not to fear what they fear or be in dread of it. **13** “It is the LORD of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, and He shall be your dread. **14** “Then He shall become a sanctuary...

We do not want to get caught up in sinful fear – not trusting in God’s power and authority. That kind of fear can be contagious and cause your brothers and sisters to stumble.

Deuteronomy 20:8 - Then the officers shall speak further to the people and say, ‘Who is the man that is afraid and fainthearted? Let him depart and return to his house, so that he might not make his brothers’ hearts melt like his heart.’

Find Christ in the middle of the crisis – and find peace.

Philippians 4 – 6 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 comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Satan does not want you to have peace, so he will do all he can to distract you from seeing the peace that is offered in Christ.

We should not shrink back in fear. Rather, with words given by the Holy Spirit, we should boldly speak the truth, which is the Word of God.

The disciples faced a crisis of faith after Jesus was crucified. But during their crisis, Jesus revealed Himself to them, giving them confidence in the resurrected Christ, victory over fear, and boldness to speak the truth.

John 20 – **19** So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” **20** And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Satan will attempt to overcome your joy with deception and doubt.

Matthew 28 – **11** Now while they were on their way, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened. **12** And when they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, **13** and said, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.’ **14** “And if this should come to the governor’s ears, we will win him over and keep you out of trouble.” **15** And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews, and is to this day.

Acts 4 –**7** When they had placed them in the center, they began to inquire, “By what power, or in what name, have you done this?” **8** Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them... **14** And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they had nothing to say in reply.

15 But when they had ordered them to leave the Council, they began to confer with one another, **16** saying, “What shall we do with these men? For the fact that a noteworthy miracle has taken place through them is apparent to all who live in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. **17** “But so that it will not spread any further among the people, let us warn them to speak no longer to any man in this name.” **18** And when they had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; **20** for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.” **21** When they had threatened them further, they let them go (finding no basis on which to punish them) on account of the people, because they were all glorifying God for what had happened.

John 14:27 – Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.