

ARE YOU SUFFERING? by Angela Loggin

God's Training Prepares You For the Call..

Can I share with you what the Holy Spirit has taught me?

In **1Peter 3:8 and 9**, Peter states, "After we have gone through the struggles and pain of hardship, all will be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, **that you may inherit a blessing**" (NKJV).

First Peter 1 was meant to be a handbook written for ambassadors to a hostile foreign land. Peter knew that persecution would arise; in fact, at the time, many Christians were already experiencing various forms of persecution. Their stand for Jesus Christ literally made them aliens and strangers in the midst of a pagan society; therefore, he carefully prescribed conduct that would bring honor to God.

In every believer's life, struggles and adversity may come for the purposes of pruning, shaking, sanding, and reshaping. If the believer rightly discerns the process, he or she can grow stronger while being conformed into the character of Christ. This basic proper response to Christian suffering will help the believer to understand the divine perspective. When facing trials and persecutions, he or she will then be able to endure persecution. Christians must realize that trials can either cause growth or bitterness in their lives. In other words, the response determines the result. Peter's encouragement to Christians, therefore, is to help their walk with Christ.

.Peter was inspired to write the passage to encourage believers in the society in which they live. In the lives of believers, especially those whom God has called to a special task, He will allow trials and adversity to purify them from every sin which may hinder them from walking in Him or looking more like Christ. In **1 Peter 2:13**, Peter discusses the believer's relationship to the world, stating that an attitude of submission is the Christlike way to harmony and true freedom.

By Evangelist Angela Loggin

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A GLIMPSE OF DESTINY

By Angela Loggin

Are you a dreamer? Has God given you a vision to establish His Church?

Can I share with you what the Holy Spirit has taught me?

Genesis 37: 5-11 says, "Joseph had a dream. When he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. He said, 'Listen to this dream I had. We were all out in the field gathering bundles of wheat. All of a sudden my bundle stood straight up and your bundles circled around it and bowed down to mine.' His brothers said, 'So! You're going to rule us? You're going to boss us around?' And they hated him more than ever because of his dreams and the way he talked. He had another dream and told this one also to his brothers: 'I dreamed another dream - the sun and moon and eleven stars bowed down to me!' When he told it to his father and brothers, his father reprimanded him: 'What's with all this dreaming? Am I and your mother and your brothers all supposed to bow down to you?' Now his brothers were really jealous; but his father brooded over the whole business" (NKJV).

God will show you your end in the beginning. When God gives you a vision, He gives you just a glimpse of what will usually be the best part of your life. God showed Joseph a vision that his brothers and father would bow down to him one day.

On the other hand, God never told Joseph about the "In-Between" dividing the Beginning from the End, which was the "PIT experience" he would encounter. Many times, when there is a great calling on your life to do the Lord's will, there will be a refining process you must first go through.

James 1:2 and 3 says, "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance" (NKJV). God's purpose will place you in the most difficult or unclean environment.

The story continues with Joseph being placed in jail for a crime he didn't commit. Meanwhile, he met the cupbearer, who was having trouble understanding his dream. Joseph interpreted his dream through the help of the Holy Spirit and helped him understand what it meant. Joseph asked the cupbearer to remember him, only to be forgotten for two more years. In all adversity or storms of life, you may be forgotten, but as Joseph's example demonstrates, you must maintain **INTEGRITY**.

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Preparation Is the Key Principle to Kingdom Living

By Angela Loggin

“Yes, Lord, here I am. Send me...” You’ve answered the call, but are you ready for ministry? Can I share with you what the Holy Spirit has taught me?

First Peter 3:15 says, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asked you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (NKJV).

when God calls He provides; however, a call to ministry is also a call to preparation. Many are called, but only a few who are able to pass the test are chosen. The word "prepare" means “to make ready beforehand for a specific purpose.” Preparations must be made to fulfill the call of God. The first thing leaders must do is yield their vessels to God and cooperate with the Holy Spirit, who will guide them into truth.

In Jeremiah 18:1-4, we read, “The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord saying, Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will announce my words to you. Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something on the wheel. But the vessel that he was making of clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter; so he remade it into another vessel, as it pleased the potter to make” (NKJV).

The test begins: Before God can use you effectively, you must separate yourself from the world, which means every work of the flesh. Trials and tribulations will begin to come into every area of your life as you are tempted by the devil. He will tempt you through your health, marriage, finance, sex life, loved ones, and family members. When God told Abraham he was going to be a father of many nations, it was a promise from Him; however, Abraham was not prepared for the test. He fell into the temptation of helping God out by creating an Ishmael. God never stopped testing Abraham; in fact, He continued to test him---even with Isaac, his only son. Now, many leaders every day are repeating this pattern, just like Abraham. They never realize that before they can start a ministry or build a church, they must prepare themselves. If they are prepared, when the storms of life begin to beat upon them, they can speak God’s promises. This is the Word of God.

Second Timothy 2:21 says, “Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work” (NKJV).

In God's house, many are there to honor God and some bring dishonor, but if anyone begins to get prepared by cleansing himself from every form of wickedness, he can be a vessel God can use to bring Him glory.

In Luke 4:1, we read, “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry” (NKJV).

As the Leader, Jesus demonstrated how we should address the devil when he comes to tempt us: We must speak the word of God. Jesus gives a good example of a prepared leader who stands with authority, reminding the devil about who he is in God. If a leader is not prepared, however, he cannot

stand or defeat the devil when he comes.

Luke 4:1 stated that Jesus was also led by the Holy Spirit.

Preparation enables leaders to have a listening ear that is connected to God. In the Old Testament, the prophet Elijah was told by God to go to Zarephath after his provision had dried up. If Elijah wasn't prepared, he would never have heard the voice of God when He spoke regarding his next provision.

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