

DON'T TRIP, GOD IS IN CONTROL

Bits of Hope from 9-28-08

Pastor Cynthia L. Hale

Psalms 46

Chill and know that He is God. Psalms 46:10

With all that is going on in our world today it is not unusual that we are feeling anxious or on the edge. Right now, the government is trying to use 7 billion of taxpayers' dollars to bailout Wall Street. The unemployment rate is at its highest, people are dying in Sudan and Haiti, school systems are losing accreditation, homeowners cannot pay mortgages, and gas stations are running out of gas. The greatest nation in the world is on the edge. It is crazy in our world. There is still unrest in Pakistan and Iran. Soldiers are still dying in Iraq and Afghanistan. Will it get worse before it will get better? Who will be our next president? All of us live with apprehension and fear today because we do not know if and how this madness will end.

We are intelligent and creative people so we desire to do something while this mess is going on around us. But, what do we do? Even in our own troubles, what do we do? One thing you should not do is cut off the hand that feeds you. Don't cut God off. Don't stop tithing. What do you do when you don't know what to do? Trust that God is still in control. It is only when you are in an intimate relationship with God will you are able to understand that He is your refuge. In **2 Kings 18, 19** Hezekiah prayed to God concerning the deliverance of Jerusalem. God told Hezekiah not to be afraid because He will save the city. God did what He said. This tells us that we don't need to panic; we need to pray. When the people of God pray, impossible situations are turned around. When chaos happens, God protects us. When we fast and pray, God takes notice.

The economic crisis looks and feels as if it is an impossible situation. President Bush and Congress may not have all the answers but we know who does. They may have power but God has all power. He is in control. We don't need to trust in our political leaders. No matter who is in the White House we need to trust God. Even when you cannot see God, you need to trust Him. Even when you cannot feel Him, trust that He is there working it out for your good. **2 Chronicles 7:14** We need a healing in the land. We need God to stop the madness that we are experiencing right now. We don't have gas, our children are being left behind, and people can't pay their mortgages.

In the text, it is faith that the Psalmist is promoting to the people of God. The reason we can rest comfortably in God is because in the midst of a storm God is our refuge and strength. God is in charge of His world and in control of His people, nation, and nature. Nothing takes place that He has not permitted. There is nothing new to Him. The Hebrew word for refuge means shelter from danger. When you trust God and abide in Him, you are safe and secure from all alarm. The

Almighty is always with you. He is a present help no matter where you are. You just need to stay with the Lord, trust Him and never doubt. See if He won't bring you out.

To say that God is a present help means that He has also been a help in the past so don't worry about His help in the future. This is not the first time you have been in a situation where God has had to bring you out. He has done it before, and He can do it again. You don't need to be afraid. You need to stop trippin' and don't panic. God is still in control. Nothing is so great that it goes beyond His power.

God protects us not to pamper us but to send us back out into the world as ambassadors for Him. God is our stronghold. **2 Samuel 22:3, Psalms 9:9, Psalms 18:2, Psalms 27:1** Though we are surrounded by a world on fire, the presence and power of God is the reason why we the people of God still have joy, peace, and hope. Even when we stumble, He will not let us fall. In the darkness of distress, know that God will not leave you there long. God is light and in him there is no darkness. It is always darkest before the dawn. Just when you are ready to give in to the darkness God shows up and shows out on your behalf. God will turn this thing around in the midnight hour while you are sleeping so that when you wake up at the break of day the enemy will not be able to mess with you any longer. Even in this nation's crisis, God is working some things out. When He works those things out, He will turn it around. In the mean time, our assignment is to be still and know that He is still in control.

God uses the difficulties to help us get to know Him better. Our knowledge of Him has to be based on experience. You can't know Him better just by the experiences of others. You have to know Him for yourself. The truth of the matter is, when everything is going well we don't seek to know God better. Are you going to continue to run around like a chicken with its head cut off or will you trust God?

God is a life partner. He is the one with a plan for your life. He is the only one that can get you there. He is the only one that can move the opposition. However, you must be free in Him to trust Him and that is through the intimate relationship (a life partnership) with Him.

Peace

The full transcript of this message and others is available on cassette, CD and DVD

at

www.RayofHope.org

TRANSFORMING YOUR WORLD

www.rayofhope.org

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale, Senior Pastor