

# Spiritual Growth

## Repairing & Rebuilding Firm Foundations in Christ

Session Seven

### Responding To Adversity

#### Opening Prayer

#### Living in the Fullness of God's Promises

If we are to live in the fullness of God's promises for our life, we must learn to be at peace in the midst of great storms raging around us. Jesus said in Luke 17:1, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to the one who brings them." Since we know we will have many chances to become offended, and further that there will be much adversity, we must be prepared to weather any storm that comes our way. Part of being prepared to weather the storm of adversity is knowing the plan and device of the devil.

**Instructor's note:** Ask the class to give some examples of the devil's device.

1) The devil comes but to **steal, kill and destroy**.

**Ask someone to read aloud John 10:10,** *"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly (NKJ)."*

2) He is your adversary and **looking for any open door** to enter your life through.

**Ask someone to read aloud 1 Peter 5:8:** *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walking about, seeking whom he may devour: (KJV)*

**What does the word "adversary" mean?** In the Greek, Adversary #6869 means adversity, affliction, anguish, distress, tribulation, trouble.

3) He wants to **bring division**.

**Ask someone to read aloud Mark 3:24-25:** *And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand. (KJV)*

4) He is **the great deceiver**.

5) He **entrap or snares**.

**Ask someone to read aloud 2 Tim 2:26:** *...and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will. (NKJ)*

**Ask someone to read aloud Psalm 142:3-4:** *When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then thou knewest my path. In the way wherein I walked have they privily laid a snare for me. I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul. (KJV)*

**Paul exhorts believers in Ephesians 4:27 to give no place to the devil. Don't allow him any entrance into your life. Don't open doors to the devil.**

**James teaches us to resist the devil and he will flee from you!**

Once we know the plan and device of the devil, we can discern what and who is attacking. Paul exhorts further in Ephesians 6:12, For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places (NKJ). When we understand that we war not against man or woman, we see clearly what the enemy is trying to steal.

**In your own situation, what is the devil trying to steal?**

### 1) Relationship – Unity

**Instructor's note:** Tell the class to remember a house divided against itself will not stand, but a house united will never fall. In fact a house united will continually grow stronger and stronger. As it grows strong it is a tremendous threat to the enemy's' camp. The devil knows the power of covenant and he knows the power of the three cord (agreement). He is attacking God's power in the earth because he knows it will bring his demise.

There is power released in unity. Psalm 133 declares that where there is unity God commands the blessing. At all costs we must stay in unity with everyone around us. This doesn't mean that we must agree, but it does mean that when we disagree we can still live in harmony together.

### 2) Peace, health, prosperity, salvation

**Why do we faint in the day of adversity? Our Strength is small.**

*Prov 24:10: 10 – If you faint in the day of adversity, **your strength is small.** (NKJ)*

Strength in Hebrew #3581 from an unused root meaning to **be firm; vigor**, literally (**force, in a good or a bad sense**) or figuratively (capacity, means, **produce**); also (from its hardness) power (-ful), **strength, substance**, wealth.

**We faint because we are not firm, we lack vigor, capacity,** the means to overcome (revelation), ability, force, fruits, might, substance...

We must know who we are in Him, who He is (His ability), the truth about the adversary. We are not self-confident, but confident in God by knowing what He says. Know what the word of God says.

*Prov 24:3-6 Through **wisdom** a house is built, and by **understanding** it is established; By **knowledge** the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches. A wise man is strong, yes, a man of knowledge increases strength; For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, and in a multitude of counselors there is safety. (NKJ)*

Remember what Jesus did in the midst of adversity.

*Hebrews 12:3-4 For consider Him who **endured** such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. (NKJ)*

God is our strength, power and ability. As we wait (endure) on Him, He strengthens our heart (gives us the ability to endure).

### **Give some ways that strength is increased.**

#### **1) Spend time in His presence**

*Ps 16:11 You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (NKJ)*

*Acts 3:19 "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord... (NKJ)*

#### **2) Pray in the spirit**

*Zech 4:6 ...**Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.** (KJV)*

*Eph 6:18-19 ...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel... (NKJ)*

#### **3) Ask in Jesus' name**

*John 14:13-15 "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. If you love Me, keep My commandments. (NKJ)*

*John 15:16-17 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another. (NKJ)*

#### **4) Get into the Word, read what God says about the situation**

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (NKJ)

#### **5) Put on the full armor of God**

*Eph 6:10-20 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. **Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.** Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. (NKJ)*

God's weapons are not carnal but mighty to the pulling down of strongholds. **God's weapons are love, joy, peace, mercy, truth, righteousness, faith.** These are the attributes in our life that will take down the devil's plan every time. We must learn to walk in them, to exercise them and to enforce them. We do this by walking truth, living a life of peace, love, and joy; trusting and believing in God for every situation.

#### **Closing Prayer**

#### **This week's assignments**

- ❖ Handle situations and circumstances with faith in God, peace, love, and joy
- ❖ Journal any circumstance and how you responded
- ❖ Be prepared to share with the class next week.