**Maintaining Faith During Adversity**

*“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” – Matthew 10:32-33*

**Introduction**

* *“If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small”* – Proverbs 24:10
* There will be a day when our faith is tested. We are given the tools to guarantee triumph in trials, and tribulations. Our true strength, and true person, will be made manifest in the most trying moments of our lives.
* How do we establish a faith that is sure to stand during strife?

1. Establish faith.
2. Know the word.

* James 1:2-7, 19-21
  + We can get through trials, and tribulation, with wisdom from God.
  + The implanted word has the power to save our souls. It is the sustaining factor in our faith. In it we find *“doctrine, reproof, correction,* [and] *instruction in righteousness”* – 2 Timothy 3:16
* Luke 6:46-49
  + The word is a foundation that cannot be moved. A foundation is built first. A foundation is established before adversity comes, and is not searched for in the midst of adversity.
  + If you build your life on the foundation of Christ’s teachings then when strife comes you will already have what you need to endure.
* 1 Peter 1:22-2:3; Hebrews 6:1-3
  + The word of God is incorruptible. It is able to withstand anything.
  + It is something to be desired. It is something that nourishes us and strengthens us.
  + We should not become complacent with our knowledge of it, and move on to maturity. We are to *“grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”* – 2 Peter 3:18

1. Know your savior.

* Included in the knowledge of the word is the confidence of a savior who can help us maintain our faith in various trials.
* Hebrews 12:1-3
  + Christ endured persecution (physical and verbal) and kept His faith throughout all adversity.
  + We look to Him for encouragement in our lives. However, not only in bad times, but in good times.
* Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:14-16
  + Christ is the one who helps us endure! But you have to look to Him! You have to know about Him! This must already be established!

1. The faithful maintain their faith in strife.
2. Job

* Job wasn’t being persecuted by others for his faith. There is no doubt he would have, and did, “contend for the faith” – Jude 3, but things just happened. Obviously brought on by the devil and allowed by God, but in his eyes this was random adversity.
* Job 1:1
  + He was a righteous individual. His faith and righteousness were real. This was manifested in his continued faith in God during strife.
* Job 1:13-19, 20-22; 2:7-10
  + His livestock/animals were destroyed (v. 14-17).
  + His servants were killed (v. 17).
  + His children were killed (v. 18-19).
  + He learned of all of this at once! Yet, he did not lose his faith in God. Why? He had a foundation established.

1. Daniel

* Daniel was *“contend*[ing] *for the faith”* – Jude 3.
* Daniel 6:5-23
  + Made a decree that stated nobody could petition any god or man except the king. If they did they would throw them into the den of lions (v. 7).
  + Daniel knew of the decree and prayed anyway (v. 10).
    - Notice! *“as was his custom since early days!”* This was nothing out of the ordinary!
    - Daniel, at a young age, had purposed in his heart to serve God (1:8)!
  + He was cast into the den of lions (v. 16).
  + God delivered Daniel because of his enduring faith (v. 21-22).

**Conclusion**

* It is inevitable that our faith will be tested in various ways.
* The only way to maintain your faith during strife is to establish a foundation.
* When a person’s faith fails, it’s due to their lack of foundation in Christ and His word.
* If you have your faith firmly established, when adversity comes you will be able to maintain that faith. However, this has to happen now. If you wait to establish your faith in trying moments you will fail.