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DON'T FAINT IN THE FIRE

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DON'T FAINT IN THE FIRE

I. Faint Not

A. **Proverbs 24:10** – *If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.*

1. **Faint** (*raphab*) – Cease, fail, be feeble, forsake, or leave.
2. I also believe it includes discouraged, depressed, filled with self-pity, being negative, and complaining (which is being critical of God).
3. See **I Corinthians 10:9-10**.
4. We say “Our steps are ordered of the Lord” until we find ourselves somewhere that we do not want to be.

B. **Mark 4:35-41** – Jesus rebuked the disciples for their “littleness of faith” in the storm.

1. We must face the fact that our attitude during adversity shows our degree of faith and spiritual strength.
2. Talk is cheap; but when we see someone with the goods, we know they have paid the price.

THEY HAVE GONE THROUGH THE FIRE!

C. Everybody faints (but God) until they learn how to stay **continually built up!**

1. **Isaiah 40:29-31**
2. **Verse 29** – Faint (*yaepb*) – fatigued, exhausted, weary

3. **Verse 30** – Faint (*yaaph*) – flight, cause to fly, tire, weary
4. **Colossians 2:7** – *Have the roots [of your being] firmly and deeply planted [in Him, fixed and founded in Him], being continually built up in Him, becoming increasingly more confirmed and established in the faith . . .*
5. **Zechariah 4:1-6** – It speaks of two olive trees that stand by the bowl that holds the oil, which is on top of the lampstand and feeds oil into the bowl continuously. This vision when interpreted means, “Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord.”
6. **Psalm 91:1-2** – When we dwell in the secret place, we remain stable and are able to say of the Lord: “He is my Refuge and my Fortress; in Him I trust, and on Him I will lean and rely.”

Example: Spending quality time with God strengthens us spiritually, and we are able to have faith – even in adversity.

7. I can tell you to “be strong,” but I have also told you “how to be strong.”

D. The goal in adversity

1. Stay positive and look beyond the adversity to the outcome.
2. **Genesis 50:20** – *As for you, you thought evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring about that many people should be kept alive, as they are this day.*
3. **Job 42:10** – *And the Lord turned the captivity of Job and restored his fortunes, when he prayed for his friends; also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.*
4. **Romans 8:28** – All things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose.
5. **Jeremiah 29:11** – I know the thoughts and plans I have for you, thoughts and plans for your welfare, to do you good and give you hope in your **final outcome**.

E. **II Corinthians 4:8-18** – Paul had terrible trials, but he considered them light, momentary afflictions.

1. How we consider our adversity determines how much we can take.
2. We never want our problem; but if we could trade with someone else, we would probably find that we would rather keep ours than have theirs.
3. Considering is a process of the mind – be careful what you do with your mind during adversity.

II. Areas In Which We Are Tempted To Faint

A. **Luke 18:1** – Don't faint in prayer.

1. Faint – Lose heart, lack courage, grow weary.
2. Vine's says that fainting is often the effect of tribulation or continued labor.

B. **Hebrews 12:5** – During chastisement

1. We are told to look toward the end result or look toward "later on."

C. **Galatians 6:9** and **II Thessalonians 3:13** – In well doing

1. Continuing to do the right thing when you are not getting the right results is what builds character in us – it is for this purpose that God delays in bringing our breakthroughs.
2. Life is filled with "divine delays for a divine purpose."

D. **Ephesians 3:13** – Do not faint at others tribulation.

1. When I was attacked with cancer many years ago, I had many people who were more confused than I was.

III. The Fire Of God

- A. **Deuteronomy 4:24** and **Hebrews 12:29** – Our God is a consuming fire, and a jealous God.
1. He is jealous of anything that takes first place in our lives – the place that belongs to Him.
 2. He consumes anything that is between Him and the believer.
- B. **Exodus 3:2** – The burning bush
1. All bugs and insects were devoured, but the bush was not consumed.
 2. God manages to destroy the things that are destroying the believer without destroying the believer himself.
- C. We are ready to hear from God after the fire of God burns in our lives.
1. **I Kings 19:12** – Elijah had a bad attitude and had gotten off course.
 2. After the fire, then he finally heard the still, small voice.
 3. **Psalms 119:67** – *Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now Your word do I keep . . .*
 4. **Jonah 2:2** and **Jonah: Chapter 1** – Jonah could have responded in chapter one the way he did in chapter two, but he responded wrongly until he was afflicted.
- D. Fire checks our motives.
1. **I Corinthians 3:13-15** – The eyes of fire will check our motives on judgment day.
 2. Fire (adversity) checks our motives regularly. If a person is not sincere or very committed for the right reasons, they will turn back in the day of adversity.

3. Those who go through the fire are surely doing their works for right reasons.
- E. **Daniel: Chapter 3** – Many bow to the enemy rather than go through the fire!
1. **Luke 4:1-13** – Satan told Jesus, “If You will bow (do it my way) just once, I will reward You.”
 2. **Isaiah 43:2** – God promises that the fire will not burn or scorch us, nor will it kindle upon us when we go through.
 3. **Daniel 3:26-27** – Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out victoriously; they were not burned, and they did not even smell like smoke – they refused to bow to the enemy and ended up with a promotion.
- F. Baptism of fire and the remnant
1. **Matthew 3:11-12** – Baptism of fire
 2. **Mark 10:35-40** – James and John want promotion, and Jesus talks to them about the baptism of fire.
 3. **Zechariah 13:8-9** – Only one-third will be brought through the fire and purified.
 4. **Malachi 3:1-3** – God will purify himself a people that will offer to Him offerings in righteousness.
 5. **Romans 11:2-5** – God will always have a remnant.
 - a. **Remnant** – What remains on a bolt of material after everything else has been sold or cut away. Something left over, the remainder.
 - b. The world would consider the remnant scraps, but that is where God begins.
 6. **Mark 6:43** – The broken pieces were collected so that nothing was wasted.

You may feel like a scrap, a broken piece, or somebody's leftovers – you may feel like you have been through the fire, the flood, and back to the furnace; but if you make it through the fire, you will be one of those rare people that let God have His way in their lives.

