

## Living in a World of Turmoil

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Unless you have been living under a rock somewhere, you must recognize that there is lots of turmoil in the world! Senator John McCain recently said, “I have never seen the world in more turmoil than it is today.”

A reading of the Scriptures will show that from Genesis to Revelation, the people of God have often lived in a world of turmoil. Remember Noah? He lived when every imagination of the thoughts of man’s heart was only evil continually, the earth was corrupt and filled with violence (Gen. 6:5, 11-13). How about Lot? The men of the city compassed his house and came near to break the door (Gen. 19:4-9). He was vexed from day to day with their unlawful deeds (2 Pet. 2:7-8). The world of the first-century was full of turmoil for Christians. Imagine a Saul of Tarsus on the loose (Acts 8) or a Herod on the throne (Acts 12)! The church in Smyrna was told, “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast

some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Rev. 2:10). It was a dangerous time for Christians!

Paul warned that “perilous times shall come” and every form of evil that makes days difficult and times troublesome are present in today’s society (2 Tim. 2:1-5). This presents challenges for us as the Lord’s people. How do we go about living in a world of turmoil?

**1) Live By the Word of God.** The Lord made His Old Testament people to know, “...that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live” (Dt. 8:3). This was quoted by the Lord in resisting the devil’s temptation as recorded in Matthew 4:4. We ought to live with the mindset, “I cannot go beyond the word of the Lord my God, to do less or more” (Num. 22:18). The word of the Lord

is right (Ps. 33:4). Psalm 119 is a great place to learn the value of living by the word of God: It cleanses (v. 9), guards from sin (v. 11), quickens (v. 25), gives strength (v. 28), equips to answer (v. 42), comforts (v. 50), is the source of hope (v. 81), is settled in heaven (v. 89), furnishes light (v. 105), is very pure (v. 140), and is true (v. 160). “Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded (Prov. 13:13). Jesus said, “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed” (Jn. 8:31). Paul commended the Ephesians “to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified” (Acts 20:32). The word saves (Jas. 1:21). We are to be doers of the word (Jas. 1:22). One of these days we will be judged by the word (Jn. 12:48). Thus, we ought to live by it!

**2) Live By Faith.** It is written in Habakkuk 2:4, “... the just shall live by his faith.” Paul wrote the Romans about the saving gospel of Jesus Christ which reveals the

righteousness of God and said, "...The just shall live by faith" (Rom. 1:17). Paul informed the Galatians, "... the life which I now live in the flesh (how did you live your life, Paul) I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20). Galatians 3:11 records, "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith." Exhorting early Christians to hold fast the faith, the apostle penned, "Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him" (Heb. 10:38). 2 Corinthians 5:7 teaches, "For we walk by faith, not by sight." Hebrews 11 faith heroes tell what it means to live by faith. "These all died in faith..." (Heb. 11:13). May we live by faith so that it can be said that we died in faith.

**3) Live Not After the Flesh.** The eighth chapter of

Romans finds Paul making his appeal to Christians to not live after the flesh, but after the Spirit. "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live" (Rom. 8:13). There is a struggle that we're all faced with as "...the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh..." (Gal. 5:17). Let us determine not to practice the works of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21) but bring forth the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) in our lives.

**4) Live Peaceably.** Christians in Rome were instructed, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men" (Rom. 12:18). That's a good principle for us today!

**5) Live for Jesus.** Jesus lived and died for me. The least I can do is live for Him! Listen to these words: "And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him

which died for them, and rose again" (2 Cor. 5:15). Who are you living for? Paul said, "For to me to live is Christ..." (Phil. 1:21). If we live for Jesus here on earth, one day we shall "... live together with him" in heaven (1 Th. 5:10).

**6) Live Soberly, Righteously and Godly.** Titus teaches us about living: "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live (how should we live?) soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world" (Titus 2:12). "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34).

**7) Live Honestly.** "...in all things willing to live honestly" (Heb. 13:18). Let's be honest with God, others and ourselves in our daily living (Rom. 12:17).

When we live as the Bible teaches, it gives us great comfort and peace, regardless of what may be going on around us.

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