

# THE MESSAGE OF HOPE

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## THE

POWER TO OVERCOME

## THE

STRESSES OF THE

# NATIONS



SEPTEMBER 2009

*"And on the earth will be anxiety of nations with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men fainting from fear, and expecting those things which have come on the earth. For the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. And then they shall see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to happen, then look up and lift up your heads, for your redemption draws near." (Luke 21: 25- 28 NKJV)*

We are in one of the periods in this century, when the nations of the world are experiencing what I would call an 'unprecedented shaking.' Anxieties abound and faith is giving way to fear. Uncertainties make people take desperate measures in order to secure their lives. However in the midst of all this, I want you to know that there is still hope.

The first thing I want you to realize is that in the midst of this upheaval, God is in control. Satan is unleashing his forces against the world, knowing that his days are short. He knows that anytime soon the whole heavens will be opened against him and he will face judgment. So he is stressing and shaking the nations. However, I want you to realize as children of God, that in spite of all these things, God is in control. There is no universal plan in the Bible to turn the economy around but God has a unique plan to turn your situation around. God may not have a global solution to the fall in the value of shares but He has enough grace to see you through even though your own shares are affected. God may not be involved in the Stock Exchange but God

will give you enough stock in your fridge to take you through the months ahead. God will be a friend in need, even when all those things are collapsing around you. There are no universal solutions; there are only unique solutions.

It is in times like these, that you and I should resurrect our child-like faith. This is the time we need to understand "give us today our daily bread (Mathew 6:11 KJV). We don't need to ask God for tomorrow or the future but we can ask God for today. Paul told the Hebrew church, "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward." (Hebrews 10: 35 KJV) Do not abandon your confidence, do not allow circumstances to put you in the state of fear; rather have a fearless confidence. Do not allow your heart to fail; these are the times you must trust God. There may be people who have no job universally but uniquely God can provide a job for you. Remember that God shall supply your needs, not according to the economy of this country but according to the unlimited resources of heaven. Begin to personalize the promises of God. Trust God's wisdom, take Him at his word; His testimony does not fail and He can use any tool to turn situations round.

The second thing is that you must ensure in times like this that you don't become covetous. The bible encourages us not to be covetous. (Hebrews 13: 5, Ephesians 5: 3) Covetousness is a spirit that has nothing to do with how much you have but the desire to have more. If a covetous person leaves home with a very good hat on his head, immediately he comes to church and sees someone whose hat is bigger or the colour is different, he begins to



crave for it. He compares himself with another person and begins to get anxious. The opposite of covetousness is contentment. And I want to tell you that contentment has nothing to do with the money you have in your bank. It has nothing to do with the salary you earn. Contentment is a state of spiritual equilibrium, that 'if I'm in need, I bless God, for my God shall supply the deficit and when I'm in surplus, my God shall help me distribute the surplus.' In whatsoever situation I am in, I can maintain spiritual and mental equilibrium; I can be calm within, knowing that He will never leave me desolate or forsake me.

Finally, in times like these, you and I must focus on the great commission. We know that the nations of the world are going through challenging times where things are not working the way they should. What then is the solution to the world problems? Christ! A world that does not have Christ have crisis, when you cross Christ out of your life you have crisis. We must be committed to take the great commission to the people of the world. One morning, the Lord asked me, 'Do you know why I want you to be committed to the great commission of reaching out to souls and bringing them to the kingdom? It is because eternity is real.' Somebody said this earth is the place of the living dead, while eternity is the place of life everlasting. The Bible said, 'It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.' (Hebrews 9: 27 KJV) We must let people realize, that eternity is real

and not just to think that things will improve, but to make eternity their focus.

Again, I want you to realize that we need to be committed to the great commission because this world is empty. No matter the great and beautiful things in this world, I want you to realize that a world without Christ is an empty world. God expects you and I to be committed to the great commission. Go and tell people about Jesus; go and be optimistic about the Christ that you have. Go and talk about the faith you have found in Jesus. Wake up in the morning and declare the glory you have in Jesus. Let them know that Jesus is the solution to the world's problems. Let them know that Christ in you is the hope of glory. In the midst of all the difficulties of this world, you can shine as light when you begin to share the gospel.

I want to encourage you, in the midst of the economic difficulties, when men's hearts will be overcharged with all kinds of challenges, don't forget that God is in control. Don't lose control. Stay contented even though it seems your financial situation is shaky. And in the midst of the economic downturn, be committed to the great commission. When you do that, you can rejoice in the midst of sorrow; you can be happy when others are looking at their cheque book and running helter-skelter. Realize that the God you serve neither sleep nor slumber. (Psalms 121: 4) Our God is constant; He is a helper in times of trouble.

BY REV. PROF. G. E. ERHABOR

# Testimony



## A FRUIT OF SUPPLICATION

Sometimes ago, I had a challenge of ill health. Pastor said, 'Adversities are a test of strength; they are a prediction of the future.' And he also said, 'Those who go through adversities are those God reserves the best.'

The atmosphere of supplication, love and encouragement in this church made me to come out triumphantly in sound health and fruitfulness. Today to the glory of God I have with God's provision a glorious wife, a successful wedding despite all challenges and a good home. Thanks to the special contribution of pastor.

Bro Ilesanmi Oluwafemi

### NUGGETS

- When going through crisis:
  - Pray that your faith does not fail
  - Never lose your focus
  - Be careful of friendly fire
  - Don't forget that God has not finished with you
- Remember that God is always faithful
- Don't lose your fellowship with God
- Keep your eyes on the finishing line

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT LESSON IN LYING

A minister told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17."

The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only sixteen chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."

### Quotes

- Things always turn out best, for those who make the best out of the way things turn out.
- We may not see the hands of God but we have the quiet assurance that the heart of God is good.
- When you are committed to something larger than life, you cannot give yourself to something lesser than God.
- Convictions are gotten in encounters with God. Hold yourself accountable to your conviction.
- Resolutions antedates the days of warfare. They are made in the secret place.

# TAPE REVIEW

## WINNING OVER DIFFICULT TIMES:

### CONVICTION:

#### RECOGNIZING THE NON-NEGOTIABLES IN OUR LIVES

The non-negotiable issues in our lives determine how far we will go and how well we will finish our race. They are the moral compass that guide our destinies and distinguish our service. When it comes to the non-negotiables, we must always hold our ground. What must we never negotiate?

- Never negotiate when your conscience is at stake
- Never negotiate when it comes to the matters of the cross
- Never negotiate your calling
- Never negotiate God's commands

Don't use the multitude as a barometer for your life. Take a stand for God.

## WINNING OVER DIFFICULT TIMES:

### GOD SHALL DELIVER US

The three Hebrew children had a fundamental belief that God will deliver them. But when does God deliver? What determines the turning point in our adversities and challenges? What rules govern the turning point? What should we do before the turning point?

- Know that God is the source of the turning point
- God's silence does not mean that He is not involved
- Do not stray from the pathway of God
- Do not lose your sensitivity to the voice of God

Challenges have a time frame. God will rise to help you but you must not quit on God before the turning point. Keep holding on.

For more on these messages, get the CDs at the Spokesman Resource Centre, Mayfair Shopping Complex, Ile-Ife.

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Watch Rev. (Prof.) G. E. Erhabor  
Hope for the Nations

NTA, Ile-Ife: Sundays 7:30pm  
ITV, Benin: Saturdays 3:30pm  
OSBC, Osogbo, Tuesdays 7:30pm  
ITV Abuja Sunday 5:30pm

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