

THRIVING IN A DYING WORLD: PREPARING FOR DIFFICULT TIMES

It is likely that we, on this side of the Rapture, cannot fully appreciate the "difficult times" that many will experience soon. Jesus said that the coming tribulations would be unprecedented.

I have served as a regional point person for disaster-response work in the aftermath of a geologic event that claimed 16% of the town's residents. It left many homeless and destroyed the only east-west corridor to a freeway, interstate, or city of any size, leaving a detour of 75 miles.

Drawing from my experience, I will share a few insights which I hope you prayerfully consider as you think about how to be ready for the trials that are to come.

Also, let me recommend the chapters on this topic in the Rapture Kit Binder and the Grid Plan eBook – both are included in the Rapture Kit resource. Benefit from my experience by following these steps.

SIX STEPS TO PREPARE FOR DIFFICULT TIMES

- **Prepare Spiritually:** A strong spiritual foundation will help you not be shaken to the core when tough times come. Memorize the following verses and say them out loud when Satan attempts to discourage or introduce doubt.

Give the enemy no ground – do not listen to his lies. Believe God has a plan, and His plan will prevail. Trust in His love and rejoice in His promise of eternal reward for the faithful.

- *"I will never leave you nor forsake you..."* (Heb. 13:5)
- *"Cast your cares upon Him, for He cares for you."* (1 Pet. 5:7)
- *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything with prayer and thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God, and the peace of God, which surpassing all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 4:6-7)
- *"...nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus"* (Rom. 8:39b)
- *"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus"* (Rom. 8:1)
- *"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, [He] will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but will with the temptation make a way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."* (1 Cor. 10-13)
- *"...come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace in the time of need"* (Heb. 4:16b)
- *"Wait on the Lord. Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart. Wait, I say, on the Lord."* (Psalm 27:14)

- *"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped." (Psalm 28:7a)*

- **Prepare Mentally:** Move forward, knowing things will be very, very difficult. The saying, "prepare for the worst" will help you face the worst. Those who prepare for a mile run and later find themselves in a marathon soon find themselves in trouble. Conversely, those who prepare for a marathon can rejoice if the race, or test, ends earlier or is easier than expected.
Your mental goal should be to do as much as possible for the Lord for as long as possible. Do not pursue survival as much as you pursue faithfulness. Be mentally prepared to be a faithful servant and witness for the Lord until He calls you home.

- **Liquidate as much as possible:** Retirement accounts and bonds will soon have little value. Currency values may plummet. Try to convert bigger assets into resources that can directly be used for ministry.

- **Stock-up:** Gather nonperishable food, medicine, water, fuel, blankets, solar-powered equipment – items that will be helpful when basic services are disrupted. Gather and organize supplies so that you can share with those in need and seize these service moments to witness.

- **Network:** Aggressively look for trustworthy Christians in your area – individuals who will be willing to barter items and services. At some point, all believers' ability to buy or sell openly will be prohibited by law. Due to earthquakes, war, civil unrest, and the Trumpet Judgments detailed in Revelation, it will soon become very difficult to purchase food and supplies. Create a network of support so you will be able to give help rather than require help if there are disruptions in electricity, water, food, and other essential services.

- **Connect with prayer and accountability partners:** Everyone needs a team of praying encouragers, confidants, and advisors behind them. God made us to operate most effectively when we partner with others. Connect with strong Christians. Encourage and pray with each other often. Share your fears and struggles. Share helpful scriptures. Those who operate in isolation are vulnerable to the schemes and attacks of the enemy. Serve others. Serve *with* others.