

## **Sunday July 01, 2007**

### **Topic: When Crisis Hits**

Crisis hits unexpectedly.

Could be in different areas of life.

Crisis – a little different from daily challenges. A crisis experience appears to be a fatal blow, a knock out punch, something that signals the end.

My recent crisis experience happened last week in the area of area of business.

Monday June 23 morning 8:30am conference call – received news that a customer, for whom we had been doing preliminary work since last October, would not be going ahead with a major project. This would affect about 30 people. Nearly 30 out of about 45 people would be non-billable, – not a good thing for a small business. Gave them some more options to consider. Tuesday evening 9:00pm, they emailed final confirmation that they will not be going ahead for sure!

My reactions/learning through this process:

*(While sharing my personal experience I want to ensure that your attention is on the Lord Himself, rather than on me or my experience.)*

#### TWO BETTER THAN ONE

Amy, my wife, my primary support.

Ecclesiastes 4:9,10

From Tuesday evening, all through this point, have been experiencing the Word which says "Two are better than one,...if one falls the other will hold him up..." This is one of the many amazing joys of marriage that God has designed.

*<tried to have a meeting with few leaders at the company Tuesday night. Was too late. So had to wait till Wednesday>*

#### SURRENDER

My only desire is to do your will.

Even if I own nothing, have nothing – I will do your will.

Hebrews 10:7,9 John 5:30

#### UNDERSTANDING THE WAYS OF THE LORD

- Is God wanting to have me for Himself?
- Is this God telling me to make a change? Thought about another Christian couple in Malaysia who had shared with Amy saying "God took away business so that we could be in the ministry". Began to think about what life would be like without running a business.
- Was reminded of Abraham who birthed Ishmael, because of delay in seeing God's promise come to pass. He waited about 10 years since God the first time God spoke the promise and still had not seen anything (Genesis 16:3). The Holy Spirit was reminding me not to birth an Ishmael. *Don't allow crisis situations that threaten to destroy God's promise, to cause you to birth an Ishmael.*

Galatians 4:29

So my prayer was "God I want to know your will. I do not want to make a mistake at this point".

- Was also reminded about the fact that in God's eyes *character is more important than success*. To God, *who I am is more important than what I accomplish*. Ultimately what God wants to build in me is Christ-likeness – to be conformed to the image of His Son (Romans 8:29, Ephesians 4:13,15)  
*God can grant success in a day. But it takes a life-time to build godly character*. It only take a moment for God to turn water to wine (something that would a long in the natural), or turn an all night of fruitless labour into a net-breaking, boat-sinking catch of fish (Luke 5) – but the development of character is never an instantaneous event!  
James 1:2-4
- Feelings of insufficiency  
I felt totally incapable, inadequate, insufficient, disqualified to do business totally. God may grant business success to others – may be they are called to do that. But not me. Was thinking of all those Christian millionaires – who are running successful Kingdom Businesses. Maybe, God would grant it to them but not me.  
Felt like Moses, when although schooled in Egypt, after 40 years in the wilderness, when God wanted him to go to Egypt, he said, God send somebody else, not me.  
Feelings of insufficiency drives us to total dependence on God 2 Corinthians 3:5  
Feelings of insufficiency awakens us to our need for other people in our lives. Ephesians 4:25  
Feelings of insufficiency ensures that we give all the glory to God 1 Corinthians 1:26-29
- Learn to Lay your burdens down  
*"you are carrying a lot of burdens. These burdens are affecting your spiritual life. But with super faith and super worship you can have the victory"*  
1 Peter 5:7

#### UNDERSTANDING WHAT THE WILL OF THE LORD IS Ephesians 5:10,17

##### (A) FRIENDS : SUPPORT & COUNSEL

- On Wednesday, sent an email to some who were my peers for prayer and counsel if any: 4 pastors, 2 people outside the company – contemporaries in business
- Sent an email to 3 people who were senior to me, 2 of them in ministry, 1 in the business world.
- We must understand the need to have good godly relationships  
Proverbs 18:24    1 Corinthians 12:25  
Cell Groups are an important part of building these relationships.
  - ✓ Relationships take time to build
  - ✓ Relationships require a certain amount of transparency – see me for who I really am
  - ✓ Relationships require a certain amount of vulnerability – I will share my struggles with you
  - ✓ Do not allow your spiritual pride keep you from building trusted relationships, being transparent and vulnerable before close and trusted relationship.

##### (B) WEIGHED ALL OPTIONS

- On Wednesday Got together with 3 leaders in the company and weighed all options
- Got information on other things I could do

##### (C) PRAYER

Spent all day Thursday (9:15am-4:30pm) in prayer and fasting  
My objective was two-fold

- ✓ Renew my inner strength Proverbs 24:10
- ✓ Know in my spirit what God wants me to do. Romans 8:14,16    Colossians 3:15

- ✓ Many times as Christians we tend to look outside – to prophecies, to circumstances, etc., to discern the will of God. However, the most important, is to be led by the Spirit, by listening to the Holy Spirit’s witness in your spirit.
- Spent most of the time praying in tongues (about 5 hours)
- ✓ Praying in tongues builds up your inner man [1 Corinthians 14:4](#) [Jude 1:20](#)
  - ✓ Praying in tongues helps you understand the mysteries of God – the things that God has prepared for you [1 Corinthians 14:3](#), [1 Corinthians 2:9,10](#)
- Spent some time reading the Word and a good Christian book (about 2 hrs)

(D) GOING BACK TO THE ORIGINAL DREAM

- During this time I was reminded about the original dream as a young boy in my late teens how I would dream about establishing a Christian company (Name: The Electronics Research Industry TERI, Slogan: Exploring the frontiers of knowledge) whose purpose was to glorify God, by having a company of people who tapped into the new creation life that was in them to excel in their work.
  - ✓ [2 Corinthians 5:17](#) says we are New Creations. As part of this New Creation that we are, we have the wisdom of God. Christ is our wisdom ([1 Corinthians 1:30](#)). We have access to all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge ([Colossians 2:3](#)). Our God reveals secrets and He knows what is darkness – things that man has not see yet ([Daniel 2:22](#)). I used to dream about creating a company where believers tapped into their spiritual resources in Christ to do their work. A company where people lived and worked out of the New Creation life that we have in Christ.
  - ✓ *Do not allow circumstances to kill your dream. Keep dreaming! God is able to do so much more. [Ephesians 3:20](#)*
- Went back in time and saw how I had made many major decisions by simply going with the inner witness of the Spirit – no prophecies, no dreams, no spectacular guidance – just the simple inner witness of the Spirit.

By Thursday evening, Friday morning

- I had new inner strength
- My direction was clear – we were going to press through this
- There was a renewed sense of vision and purpose
- There were some lessons learned

The storm is not over. We’re working our way through it. But things are different, in that  
 (a)There is an inner strength to fight through this (b)There is bright hope for the road ahead  
 (c)There is expectant faith that fills me with excitement for what we will see in the coming days!  
 God always causes us to triumph [2 Corinthians 2:14](#)  
*With God, we’re on the winning side!*

*Pray for an impartation of grace, strength and wisdom into peoples lives to press through any crisis that they may be going through – or they might encounter in the days to come. What God did and released into me, I want to impart into you – that you will find grace, strength and wisdom to press through any crisis that might come.*



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**WEBSITE:** <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

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**FREE SERMONS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

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