

From everywhere in Scripture: THE NO -SOLUTION SITUATION
PART 1

#1. Great personal distress, anxiety, even a state of panic can await anyone faced with a circumstance, wherein there is no human solution. A bad diagnosis, intractable financial reversals, collapse of relations, immediate threat of death and other things, when unattended by plausible human solutions are of course all common temporal experiences.

#2. Everywhere in the Bible, a pattern of divine action in time, quite repetitive, is put into evidence. The pattern: The Almighty, by purpose and with precision, puts people, especially believers, into *no-solution situations*. The no-solution circumstance is held within the frontiers of human impossibility.

#3. The partial biblical no-solution resume:

- Abraham and biological impossibility (Genesis 12-22);
- The patriarchs and irreducible famine (Genesis 42);
- Israel in the impossible escape from oppression (Exodus 1-14);
- Israel's impossible conquest of Canaan (Numbers 1-13);
- David and Goliath (1Samuel 17);
- Joshua's confrontation with the impossible (book of Joshua);
- Esther's gift of impossible redemption (book of Esther);
- Job's no-solution agony (book of Job);
- The impossible virgin birth (Luke 1-2);
- 40 years of no-solution circumstance (John 9);
- Peter's impossible release (Acts 12);
- Maximum security? (Acts 16);
- The impossible resurrection (Luke 24) and others.

#4. The repetition alone contains a revealed message. The Lord will immerse us in no-solution situations. He will test us there.

#5. People of biblical faith recognize the appearance of the no-solution circumstance, and then they acknowledge the promises of God and the power of God. Such believers implore the Almighty; "Stand by me"!

#6. The Lord said to Abram, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; your reward shall be very great" Genesis 15:1.

PART 2: RESOLVE-- WE SHALL NOT GIVE IN TO THE IMMEDIATE. STEADY NOW. STAY THE COURSE.

#1. Because it is the Almighty who puts the no-solution circumstance, then, *there is no such thing as chaos*. The Eternal Mind is behind it all. There is an order to it.

#2. The believer must *prepare spiritually for that day of trouble*. And when it comes, as it must, *wade into it*. To do so takes courage and faith. This was the counsel offered to Israel by the great leaders, Joshua and Caleb.

#3. "If the Lord is pleased with us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us--a land which flows with milk and honey. Only do not rebel against the Lord; and do not fear the people of the land, for they will be our prey. Their protection has been removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them" Numbers 14:8, 9.

#4. It is not uncommon to be tempted to give in to *situational dynamics* when the no-solution situation makes its appearance. But situational dynamics are overruled by the Word of God and confidence in it.

#5. The Lord has this expectation of us. "How long will this people spurn Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, despite all the signs which I have performed in their midst?" Numbers 14:11.

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PART 3: RESOLVE--MAKE A CONTEXT CORRECTION.

#1. A possible natural failure of imagination and understanding can attend the envelopment in the no-solution situation. The mistake is to think of the no-solution circumstance as the context; controlling outcomes. *The idea of context is a way of thinking about human personal experience*.

#2. The revealed truth consistently maintains that the no-solution circumstance never stands as *a context of control*. It is a setting, a stage for the purpose of God.

#3. Case in point: Acts 12. King Herod sought to establish a political context around the preaching of the gospel and around those who preached it. He had killed James and planned to kill Peter v.1-3. Herod believed that a political context, supported by the resources of the state was inescapable v.4. And it was sufficiently lethal.

#4. But the true context is eternal, determinant and invisible. "So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God" v.5.

#5. One of the powers of true faith, and perhaps its greatest strength, is to strip away from the no-solution circumstance the illusion of it being *a context*.

#6. "And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter's side and woke him up, saying, 'Get up quickly'. And his chains fell off his hands" v.7.

#7. The disciples were to learn *to make a context correction*. This is fundamental to the life built upon biblical faith.

#8. But is hard to learn. Peter, upon release sought out the brethren, came to the house where they were gathered. "Rhoda" announced Peter's presence v.13. The brothers responded: "You are out of your mind" v.15. The modern church.

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PART 4: THE GRACE OF GOD IS THE TRUE CONTEXT.

#1. If the grace of God does not superintend the no-solution situation, then, our hope is meaningless. Case in point: 2 Corinthians 12.

#2. The Lord orchestrated a temporal impairment in the life of the apostle Paul; that condition was inescapable v.1. Paul worked in a personal state of "torment". Accordingly, since the Almighty was the author of his agony, the apostle turned to the true context for relief v.8.

#3. "And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness'..." v.9. This text, as well as any, defines one's thought and behavior in the no-solution circumstance.

#4. If we do not stand by grace, we will not stand at all. The power of God is perfected in our weakness. The no-solution circumstance is leveraged by the power of God.

#5. This man, in that God-engineered state of affairs, was showing the way forward for all following generations of believers.

#6. Here is what he said, think of it: "Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong" v.10.