



6 STEPS FOR HANDLING AN EMERGENCY

As a pastor, I've observed some components of the human condition on this planet that seem to be invariable. The earth is groaning for the sons of God to be manifest (*Romans 8:19*), and as long as Satan continues to function as the god of this world (*2 Corinthians 4:4*), life-threatening and life-altering situations will confront us. I'm talking about emergencies such as tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, tsunamis, accidents, incidents, and unexpected situations that require immediate attention.

Recently, I've helped several of my spiritual sons and daughters navigate through emergencies, and I want to share with you what I imparted to them as they faced extremely challenging situations. They came out on top, and when you do the same things they did, you will too! **Partner, the enemy wants to take you out, but God's Word tells you how to handle emergencies so that you can come out of them successfully and victoriously!**

First of all, you've got to understand why emergencies happen. God does not send crises into people's lives to teach them a lesson. Satan is the one who throws

things at God's people in an attempt to keep them from fulfilling God's plans.

The devil tried to kill Paul many times because he saw Paul as a carrier of something that was dangerous to his future. Paul carried the liberating Gospel of Jesus Christ that would set the Gentile world free from the bondage of sin and idol worship. Satan came after the Apostle many times, and he wrote about it in his second letter to the Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 11:23-27

Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness,

in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

Partner, the devil sent all kinds of persecution against Paul to try to stop him from doing God's will. So, don't be shocked if he comes against you when you are serving the Lord with all your heart! Satan's last-ditch effort against Paul is recorded in the 27th chapter of Acts. Paul was a prisoner on a boat headed for Rome. His assignment from God was to preach the Gospel to Caesar, and Satan did not want that to happen. The Holy Ghost warned Paul that the journey would be perilous, but Paul was a prisoner, and those in authority didn't heed Paul's counsel.

Acts 27:4-14

And when we had launched from thence, we sailed under Cyprus, because the winds were contrary. And when we had sailed over the sea of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra, a city of Lycia. And there the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing into Italy; and he put us therein. And when we had sailed slowly many days, and scarce were come over against Cnidus, the wind not suffering us, we sailed under Crete, over against Salmone; And, hardly passing it, came unto a place which is called The fair havens; nigh whereunto was the city of Lasea. Now when much time was spent, and when sailing was now dangerous, because the fast was now already past, Paul admonished them, And said unto them, Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives. Nevertheless the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul. And because the haven was not commodious to winter in, the more part advised to depart thence also, if by any means they might attain to Phenice, and there to winter; which is an haven of Crete, and lieth toward the south west and north west. And when the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, loosing thence, they sailed close by Crete. But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon.

Satan stirred up a storm, a Euroclydon, on the water. This tempest lasted two weeks, during which time none of the passengers ate, they were in complete darkness, the ship was filled with water, the vessel was tossed about like a rag doll on the sea, and all of the cargo had to be thrown overboard. Paul was in a fight for survival, and he knew how to win! He did six things in the middle of that storm that got him through successfully. **Partner, I encourage you to keep this letter. Pull it out when Satan stirs up storms to prevent you from fulfilling God's assignments!**

The first thing Paul did in the darkness, the despair, and the discomfort of that storm was that he listened to his spirit.

Acts 27:18-25

And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next day they lightened the ship; And the third day we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship. And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away. But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss. And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. For there stood by me this night the

angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God that it shall be even as it was told me.

Paul didn't panic. He removed himself from the uproar that surrounded him, got before God, and remained sensitive to the Holy Spirit within his spirit.

Secondly, Paul stayed before God until he received an answer. Did you notice that Luke wrote that Paul took a long abstinence before he spoke to his fellow passengers and crew? **Pray until you hear from God.** It may not come after fifteen or twenty minutes, or even a day or two of prayer. Have an "I will until" attitude—I will pray until I hear from God!

Thirdly, after you check your spirit and pray until you have direction, you must receive the Word God gives you. That's what Paul did. Once he heard from the Lord, Paul didn't worry; he didn't wonder how, what, or why. **He merely received the Word the Lord gave him.**

Steps four and five in dealing with a crisis are closely related. Once you remove yourself from the fray, hear and receive the Word of the Lord, you've got to speak God's Word and act like it is so!

Acts 27:21-32

But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss. And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them

that sail with thee. Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me. Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island. But when the fourteenth night was come, as we were driven up and down in Adria, about midnight the shipmen deemed that they drew near to some country; And sounded, and found it twenty fathoms: and when they had gone a little further, they sounded again, and found it fifteen fathoms. Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day. And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship, Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved. Then the soldiers cut off the ropes of the boat, and let her fall off.

Paul spoke the Word of the Lord, and he encouraged everyone on the ship to be of good cheer as he was. God told him they would get through the storm alive, so Paul was no longer concerned!

Partner, once you get a Word from the Lord, speak it. Then act as if you're already on the other side of the emergency.

The sixth step in successfully handling emergencies is to give God praise, even if the situation seems not to have changed for the better. Consider what Paul did while the boat was still rocking and the sky was still dark.

Acts 27:27-36

And while the day was coming on, Paul besought them all to take meat, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting,

having taken nothing. Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you. And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat. Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat.

Paul gave thanks to God in the midst of doubters and unbelievers. He gave thanks despite the difficult conditions. He gave thanks loudly and boldly, and it affected everyone who heard him. *Acts 27: 37* says, “*And we were in all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls.*” In other words, 276 lives were spared because of Paul’s ability to handle an emergency correctly.

Partner, when you encounter emergencies, follow the same six steps Paul used. You will come out of any crisis successfully, and you will inspire those around you to believe God’s Word too! So, remember the six things you have to do:

- 1. Listen to your spirit.**
- 2. Pray until the answer comes.**
- 3. Hear the Word of the Lord.**
- 4. Receive the Word of the Lord.**
- 5. Act upon the Word of the Lord.**
- 6. Give God thanks and praise boldly.**

My team and I will be doing a **Paris Faith Encounter on March 8, 2019**. Please visit our www.keithbutler.org for more information. Please remember to keep us in your prayers; and pray for a bountiful harvest in this meeting. God is moving in Europe! Your prayers and financial support are making it happen, and we are so grateful! Pastor Deborah and I love you, appreciate you, and pray for you daily! **2019 is your year of abundant harvest!**

Partner, Pastor Deborah and I pray for you daily. You are important to us. More importantly, you are important to our Lord! You are always on our minds and in our hearts.

If you have a specific prayer request and would like prayer, please call us at our KBM Partner Care Center at 248.353.3476, ext. 256. Or, if you would like to email your prayer request, you may do so by sending it to partners@keithbutler.org. You may also submit your prayer request through our website at www.keithbutler.org.

