



table talk

3/29/26

It Won't Always Be Like This

Through the years I have experienced the value of receiving “A Word from the Lord.”

Don't misunderstand me. I revere the written Word of God so highly that I believe Scripture would be totally sufficient for all things in the Christian life should God never speak to our souls by His Spirit again. Yet, in His sovereign wisdom, God Himself has chosen that we hear from the Holy Spirit from time to time in various ways in order to remind us, correct us and encourage us.

In 1 Kings 22, we find King Ahab (Israel) surrounded by 400 false prophets, all of whom were encouraging him to attack Syria at Ramoth-Gilead. Victory was assured, they said. Ahab tried to persuade righteous King Jehoshaphat (Judah) to join the fight. We learn great wisdom from the Judean King's caution: “I hear all these words, but is there not a prophet of the Lord who can tell us what God is really saying?”

One of the precious weapons we have is when we face difficulties armed with a Word from the Lord. Maybe it is a portion of Scripture that comes alive in our heart. Maybe it is a comfort or confirmation spoken by the Spirit like the one spoken to Paul when difficulties abounded in Corinth (Acts 18:9,10) or when death at sea seemed inevitable (Acts 27:23-26).

I have always sensed the presence of Scripture surrounding my life in difficult times. But today I am thinking of a sentence spoken to me by the Holy Spirit when I had almost totally lost hope during a particular “storm.” The winds and

rain were incessant, and it seemed every wave was meant to capsize my life. I'm not being dramatic – it wasn't the biggest thing I'd ever faced, but I was exhausted from bailing water. I was so, so tired and beyond discouragement, and then God spoke the sentence:

“Stephen, It won't always be this way.”

There was nothing about duration or intensity or a rescue boat on the horizon. I was simply at the point I didn't think I could keep afloat. But I heard it: “It won't always be this way.”

Peace flooded my mind, and strength reclaimed my life. It wasn't going to remain this way! This was going to change! I was certain, and I rested in the assurance that had come to me via the Holy Spirit. I was reminded that the things I was going through are called “light and momentary afflictions” (2 Corinthians 4:17) – all because God is mightier than the storms we face.

Today might be the day God is inviting you to receive His promise and to know that He is greater than the thing that brings your tears.

Look up, Loved One! It won't always be this way!

I love you,
Pastor Stephen