

James Crawford – “Your Stress is a Door to God”
Sunday Service – Pt. 4 “The Undone Series”

“Your Stress is a Door to God”

1-23-22

The world is under more pressure than we have experienced in our lifetime. We simply cannot get through it safely without God’s comfort and wisdom. The following Scripture states that God has appointed the time in which we live and that He sets us in predetermined bounds and makes us grope for him. In this hour, we must learn to submit to God and grope after Him!

Come be fed!

Acts 17:26-27

26 And He made from one [common origin, one source, one blood] all nations of men to settle on the face of the earth, having definitely **determined [their] allotted periods of time and the fixed boundaries of their habitation** (their settlements, lands, and abodes),

27 **So that they should grope for Him**, in the hope **that they might feel after Him and find Him**, although He is not far from each one of us.

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1. **God Draws Us into The Wilderness to Speak Comfort**

Hosea 1:1-2:7-14

1 The word of the Lord that came to Hosea ...6 the land has committed great harlotry by departing from the Lord.”

7 She will chase her lovers...yes, she will seek them, but not find them. Then she will say, ‘I will go and return to my first husband, for then it was better for me than now.’

13 I will punish her (because) she went after her lovers, but Me she forgot,” says the Lord.

14 “Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfort to her.

2. **Whatever Your Trial, Grope for God, It Is Appointed**

So many people around me are sick, depressed, fearful or in some other dire circumstance. Add to this what we see in world news, and

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many have little hope of surviving unless they learn to manage their stress in the comforting Presence of the Father.

Death, divorce, failing health, and tense relationships can cause tremendous strain, as can the more common events of life such as marriage, a new baby, sending a child to first grade or to college, a new career, or caring for aging parents.

Sometimes it’s all just overwhelming.

Over the last 25 years, I’ve learned a bit about stress management through my own challenges. Sometimes I’ve dealt with stress wisely, and other times not. There will always be the temptation to choose a temporary “feel good” fix. But realistically, we need a lasting way to deal with life’s stresses.

As Christians, we are able to confidently turn to our Creator who cares for us and about us. Often, He has things to say about our situations, but we will only hear Him when we are available to listen. Our challenging circumstances are never so daunting that the Lord can’t walk us through them.

When stress is overshadowing your life, spend quality time drawing close to God in meaningful ways.

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3. Sit Quiet in His Peaceful Presence

When was the last time you enjoyed a moment of total, unplugged, peaceful quiet? In our world, quiet is a precious commodity. Our minds are cluttered by the chaos of our days.

While it may seem counterproductive to be still when your life feels out of control, investing in some quality quiet time can bring a measure of peace to calm the noise. I love playing fresh beautiful love songs that draw me deeper into God.

Prayer is a quiet, mindful practice that can make a difference in our challenging days. Jesus often went to quiet places to be alone with His Father. Maybe we should do the same.

Meet one-on-one with your Father and **ask Him to help you fully understand your difficult situation.** Pray to Him as you sort through your feelings and choices. He may lead you to an answer you’ve not yet considered.

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Mark 1:35

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he got up, went out, and made his way to a deserted place; and there he was praying.

4. The Recent Canada and U.S. Global Drama

Canada’s federal government recently passed a bill called C-4. This bill gives law enforcement full control to imprison Pastors and Christians who seek to spring people from the abominable throes of same sex perversion.

What is more, when American Pastor John MacArthur recently stood with thousands of North American Pastors who raised a moral outcry, his YouTube video was removed and labeled as “hate speech by YouTube.”

In case this does not shake you out of your pew let me bring this home to you.

There is probably coming a day, in our lifetime when we will not be able to legally share the Bible with our neighbors or those on our

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social media platforms. Many prophets including I, have prophesied this for decades. It is coming, without a doubt.

Luke 21:5-36

7 So they asked Him, saying, “Teacher, but when will these things be? ... 12 ...before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name’s sake.

13 But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. 14 Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; 15 for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist.

16 You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. 17 And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake.

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5. **“Don’t Over-React & Get Ahead of God”**

Matthew 24:6

6...And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don’t panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won’t follow immediately.

6. **“Stay Close to The Praying Flock”**

Acts 12:5-12

5 Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church...11 And when Peter had come to himself, he said, “Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people.”

12 So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.