


# WORDS OF HOPE

in a Financial Crisis

*The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed,  
a stronghold in times of trouble.*  
Psalm 9:9



Are you trapped in the eye of a financial storm? Are you churning frantically as you witness the pieces of your life—the things that gave you security, stability—swirling away? It's easy to be overcome by exasperation . . . anxiety . . . discouragement . . . anger . . . hope.

Hope? Wait a minute! Can *hope* fight its way through the storm rising within you? Yes! Not a wistful, I-sure-hope-so kind of hope, but a God-created, God-directed, God-strong hope!

At one point in history, things looked bleak, not only for an entire nation, but for individuals and families as well.

Joy eluded everyone. Financial resources dwindled, and the future looked miserable. Then one man engaged God in intense conversation, openly voicing his pain. His *Why?* rose to heaven as he sought God's explanation and received God's wisdom in return.

After wrestling with his pain and listening to the Lord's responses, this man could say with confidence:


*Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior. The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights.*  
Habakkuk 3:17–19

Maybe you've prayerfully thrown your own *Why's* heavenward. Maybe a frantic *Help!* or two also!


Despite the crisis, God's prophet chose to rejoice in his Savior—the Savior who was bigger than the crisis. You, too, can know for sure that Jesus Christ, who died for you, wants to be your strength, your security, the object (and creator) of your joy. He wants to lift you from despair to new heights.

But perhaps first you need to ask your own *Why?* questions. Why has this happened? Have circumstances beyond your control brought you to this place? That can be a hard truth to admit, because it means the future is also uncertain—and, consequently, intimidating. Even so, our changeless God promises we can trust him:

*Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you;  
he will never let the righteous fall.*  
Psalm 55:22



The economy is down. But maybe you have contributed to your own pain. Perhaps sins like greed, pride, the love of money, selfishness, or even a lack of faith have made things worse. If so, don't give up. Your Savior brings you hope!



Jesus forgives you in his cross. And he sends his Holy Spirit to work in you joy, new strength, and wisdom to move forward in God-pleasing ways.

He will walk with you as you . . .

- † Cultivate a deeper relationship with him. Take advantage of worship opportunities, Bible study, and personal devotions. Spend time with God's people. Aligning yourself with God's Word and ways will lessen anxiety and build a peaceful hope. Start by reading Jeremiah 29:11–13; John 16:33; Romans 8:26–39; Ephesians 1:18–19; Philippians 4:8–13, 19; 1 Timothy 6:17; Hebrews 13:5; and James 1:2–6.
- † Prayerfully research any debt-reduction or other cost-cutting measures you're considering, but beware of get-rich schemes and ideas that look too good to be true—they probably are!
- † Ask trustworthy people to suggest wise, practical, and godly resources—advisors, books, Web sites, magazine articles, or radio programs. Set aside any pride that keeps you from accepting help.
- † Communicate openly with family members about your financial situation, replacing arguments with respectful, honest conversations.

In whatever directions your Lord leads you from here, go with his blessing and trusting his promise:

*My God will meet all your needs according to his  
glorious riches in Christ Jesus.*  
Philippians 4:19

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