RESCUING A BELIEVER IN TROUBLE: CHAOS TO CRISIS TO CALM

While mowing the lawn one late-summer afternoon, I was thinking about a white paper and technical presentation that I'm preparing for the local project management chapter. The gist of the paper and presentation deals with recovering or rescuing trouble projects (i.e., what should we do when things go wrong?). Without boring you with the detail, the material will take the reader through recognition of a project in Chaos (maybe unbeknownst to project manager and team; well, that's scary), to a point of Crisis, then to a point of Calm or normalcy. During the mowing – hey, I have a pretty good-sized yard, with a push-mower – my thought process switched gears to applying this in a spiritual sense and how in my own life the grace of Christ with Christian voice and guidance of loved ones rescued me from the pitfall I was in.

Scripture says Christ changes us from glory to glory (2 Cor. 3:18) and He is the author and perfecter of our faith. In essence, we are literally a "work in progress" until the trumpet sounds. It is during this work in progress, life of ours that one may find themselves in a time of Chaos, often marked with confusion, disorder, havoc, a big mess, shambles, or literally hell. If one is away from Christ (i.e., running from Christ) or doesn't know Christ then we, as believers, have the responsibility to attempt to rescue them by throwing them a lifeline of Christ-centered love and caring (e.g., talk, prayer), and continue to do so with strong-willed perseverance. Chaos remains until we or whoever recognize a Crisis situation. Crisis sounds bad but does not have to be. It is at a point of Crisis that we have a turning point (for better or worse), a decisive moment or better yet, a defining moment. Assuming we're addressing the Crisis from a time of Chaos, then we're looking at a time of renewal/revival for the individual, which is backed by the steps to fully bring the drifting soul (or sheep) back into the fold. This crisis time is a difficult or dangerous situation that needs serious attention and is a time or state of affairs requiring prompt or decisive action. As believers, we likely will be faced with working with an individual who is walking through a crisis (albeit, it may not be a spiritual one). The best means for helping someone walk out of a crisis and into a state of calm or normalcy in our Christian lives. I would define calm or normalcy in a spiritual sense as one closely reflecting a What Would Jesus Do (WWJD) lifestyle. Am I there, No (unfortunately) but I do know that as we grow closer to Christ, we are slowly transformed to be more and more like Him --moving through ever-increasing glory until we are truly reflecting Christ to the world around us. I've/we've got to remain connected to the Vine of Christ to bear the fruits of the spirit and be a doer of His Word. That's this work in progress that I mentioned earlier, or you may have heard, we're "Under Construction."

So you might ask, what's the point of this article? Good question, I'm glad you asked. The point is two-fold: 1.) To recognize where others may be away or not know our Lord and our responsibility to rescue them, and 2.) If (and when) we are ever are in a Chaotic or Crisis time in our lives, then we know the solution is found in Him and getting close to true believers who can

help point us back to the Light of Christ (thinking of Christ as that Lighthouse, one of my favorite pictures or analogies).

I've mentioned before that what I typically share, from a spiritual perspective, is what God has already dealt with me. I've been through Chaos and Crisis and I thank the Lord and my loved ones (e.g., Marina) who threw me a lifeline of grace and love, and rescued me.

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