

BACK TO THE BASICS OF FAITH

6/20/2010

The Unthinkable

Have you ever had one of those days when you're just going on, happily about your business, and all of a sudden, WHAMM! Some crazy thing that you never in a million years expected comes out of nowhere and completely blindsides you. You can't believe it happened, but there it is in living color, something you were totally unprepared for. Whether you like it or not, you've got to make room in your mind to accept it, but that can be such a difficult thing to do.

Sometimes an experience like this happens when we have our hearts and minds set on a particular set of circumstances coming to pass, like a job promotion, a new home, or a great opportunity. We look at our circumstances and think, *"Things are working out perfectly according to plan, and I just know my blessing is on its way."* Then, the unthinkable happens. A situation occurs that obliterates any chances of your expectations coming into fruition—at least in the way that you expected. Life will do this in a quick second, and it almost never feels good.

You were sure the unthinkable would never happen. You didn't think it would happen because you have already gone through so much, and you just couldn't imagine going through anymore; I mean, how much can one human being take. But there you are—living, breathing, and facing the unthinkable. What do you do with it?

You give it to God, that's what you do with it. All of us know He's the glue that holds everything together, and we know we need to get the situation off our backs, but there's a problem. The unthinkable has left us with some emotions that are not quite like any others we've faced before. They might not feel new, but they are. If they weren't we could dispense with the situation by giving it to God; we'd then think of it no more. But that doesn't happen does it? We go over and over the situation in our minds, trying to figure out why it happened the way it did, asking ourselves if we could have prevented it, or if we could have been better prepared for it.

Right where you stand this very moment, there's a part of you on the inside that is unfamiliar. All of us have this side to us and we don't really get to see it until we are forced to—until some person or situation throws a monkey wrench into our lives. It's odd how life works that way, but it does. It makes us stretch and reach places within that we never thought we would.

When you're out there on a limb, more disappointed than any person should ever have to be, it is unfamiliar territory. You've been pushed to your limit and you can't see how you can take any more or go much further. You might not realize it, but a great deal is at stake at this particular juncture in your life, because more than any other time before, your expectations of God and of yourself are greater.

The unthinkable causes us to feel as though we're falling apart, like our soul is churning inside out, because deep down we realize that we are in a ocean without the raft we thought we'd

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have. And the more we worry about the raft, the bigger the ocean seems. This is the place where you have to ask yourself, did God know that the unthinkable would happen? Yes He did. Did He know that you would experience tremendous emotions of sadness and disappointment over it? Yes, He knew that too. But listen Ladies and Gents, God is telling you that you cannot let the unthinkable come between you and Him. He knows this, but YOU have to know it too. You have to know it until you start to live and breathe it with confidence and faith. Check out this extraordinary passage in Romans 8:31 (The Message Bible):

Romans 8:31(The Message)

So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us? And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God's chosen? Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us—who was raised to life for us!—is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us. Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture: They kill us in cold blood because they hate you. We're sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one. None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. I'm absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.

Our blessed savior loves us to pieces. He is our mediator, constantly in our awesome Father's loving face pleading our case. Jesus knows our potential. He knows where we need to be and when we need to be there, and he is always, always, always helping us to get ready. He is helping us to journey forward, even into the unknown of the unthinkable, so that we can see firsthand that even in the ocean—even in the wilderness, his love is right there.

God has a better plan than you. This is what you need to know and accept. Where one door closes another one opens. We can never become so comfortable with predictability that we neglect the unexpected. Jesus loves us! And we can't allow anything to distract us from that one central reality. So gather your courage and strength, keep your mind strong, and forge ahead with renewed faith and wisdom. Learn from the unthinkable, and trust with all your heart that it's preparing you for the wonderful blessings ahead.

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