

[FAITH'S CHALLENGE: WHERE DOES YOUR HOPE COME FROM?]

[excerpt from **THE HIDDEN POWER OF UNDEFEATABLE FAITH** by **GLENDA MALMIN**]

A key to continual freedom is to be found in answering this question: Is your hope in something temporal or in Someone eternal? As precious as family relationships can be, each one is a temporal relationship apart from the eternal friendship we make with each other in the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. In heaven there will be no husbands or wives, fathers or mothers, sons or daughters. We will all be brothers and sisters in Christ, children of our heavenly Father. You must not let your faith depend

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upon your relationships with friends or family. Faith is a personal, private decision between you and Christ. If your faith is based on a family member, it could be dashed upon a rock.

In **Luke 8:22-25**, Jesus told his disciples, "Let's go over to the other side of the lake." The winds came up and the disciples awakened Jesus proclaiming, "Master, we are perishing!" Jesus, in turn, asked them the question, "Where is your faith?" He wanted them to acknowledge whether their faith was in Him or in the storm. Today He's still asking the same question: "Where is your faith?" He's asking it of you right now. Is your faith in a boat, in a storm, in a loss, or in the Master of your soul? Only Jesus is the Master of the storms of life; only He is the source of the undefeatable faith that you will need to continue your personal journey.

Trials provide the broken ground into which spiritual seeds can be planted. They are not to be resisted; they are to be embraced and given permission to do the work of God in you. It's human nature to resist a trial, but Christ wants to give you the grace to embrace the trial and grow and expand in ways that you never

imagined you could. Life is what you have, not what you wish you could have. Live in peace and contentment where you are, all the while reaching for the future in faith. Don't spend your entire life preparing to live – live it today. Each day comes but once in human history. No matter how bad a day may be, there is always a treasure from the Lord, hidden in the darkness for your eyes only. **Isaiah 45: 2-3** says:

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“I will go before you and make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and cut the bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places, that you may know that I, the LORD, who call you by your name, am the God of Israel.”

The “treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret place” can only be found in those places where our natural instincts would never lead us but our loving Father allows us to go. He allows it that we might know Him more intimately as we draw close to Him in the trial and hold on to His hand as He leads us through.

As you respond to the Lord and cease to resist the working of His Holy Spirit in you in the midst of the trial, you will discover the hidden riches. Surrendering to God and trusting Him is the most beneficial thing you can do in the midst of unbendable situations, as God is the God of the unbendable.