

**Divine Dynasphere: Disaster Testing: Solution: Faith-Rest: Promises, Doctrinal Rationales, & Doctrinal Conclusions; Prosperity Testing: Wealth**

5. **Disaster Testing:** There are numerous circumstances that can intrude into a believer's life without warning. The suddenness of these exigencies, combined with their intensity, can cause one to react with self-pity, anger, bitterness, projection, and often fear. A period of prosperity that is interrupted by a tragic, life-changing event is classified as disaster testing.

No matter what the circumstance, it is an event that the plan of God allowed to occur and placed into the divine decree. The advancing believer must therefore orient and adjust to the problem by utilizing pertinent problem-solving devices. The one that is always applicable to disaster testing is the Faith-Rest Technique in three stages.

Stage One involves the recall and application of promises that apply to the problem.

The problem may be sudden death of a loved one, the loss of financial stability, or national crisis. One of the most shocking is the sudden loss of health, either debilitation through accident or terminal through illness.

There are thousands of promises available in Scripture, each backed by the integrity of God. As a starting point for building an inventory of promises, 55 passages are listed in:

**Griffin, Joe. *The '89 Basics Series: Know What God Thinks: The Threads of Doctrine.* (Chesterfield: Joe Griffin Media Ministries, 2005), 3:99-106.**

It is through promises that the complexity of disasters can be reduced to the simplicity of God's grace. He provides, He protects, He resolves. All is in His plan. He is not caught by surprise. Each believer is His sheep and will be sustained through the challenge if he is to remain in the battle. If so, application of doctrine will resolve the issue and allow God to deploy him as a more affective combatant in the Invisible War.

If the circumstance is designed to withdraw the believer from the battlefield then he will enjoy dying grace as he makes the transfer into the eternal state.

When the promises produce soul tranquility then clear and lucid thought can be utilized to claim doctrinal rationales that will maintain confidence and courage during the crisis.

Stage Two of the faith-rest technique involves claiming certain rationales that build confidence that is drawn from the integrity of God. Clarity of thought focus on three major doctrinal rationales: (1) the essence of God, (2) plan of God, and (3) logistical grace rationales. (See: Griffin, *Know What God Thinks*, 106-114.)

Stage Three is application: courage toward life and circumstances by means of the confidence provided by the promises and rationales. The doctrinal conclusions reached sustain the believer's confidence and courage, comfort him with soul tranquility, and assure him he is under the protective care of God.

6. **Prosperity Testing.** Disaster testing focuses one's attention on the crisis at hand. Prosperity often results in a disconnection from the principle that God's grace is the source of all we have.

The mental attitude that commonly emerges in prosperity is a sense of self-sufficiency and thus a lack of dependency upon divine provision, protection, and care. Therefore, prosperity testing is extremely subtle and insidiously dangerous to the believer's spiritual life.

The blessings associated with spiritual growth accumulate as the advance continues but often conversely the desire to keep Bible doctrine as number one priority diminishes.

The key to maintaining one's spiritual equilibrium in prosperity is capacity for blessing. It requires grace orientation and doctrinal orientation regarding every category of blessing.

Prosperity may be realized in one or more of the following areas:

- (1) Wealth: if acquired honestly then it finds its source in the free-enterprise system which is divinely ordained:

**Exodus 20:15** - "You shall not steal." (Rom 13:9)

**v. 17** - "You shall not covet ... anything that belongs to your neighbor." (Rom 13:9)

**Proverbs 14:23** - In all labor there is profit ...

However, the Bible makes it clear that without capacity, prosperity becomes a distraction:

**Proverbs 11:28** - He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.

**Proverbs 11:4** - Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.

**Proverbs 15:6** - Great wealth is in the house of the righteous, but trouble is in the income of the wicked.

**Proverbs 18: 11** - A rich man's wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall in his own imagination.

**Proverbs 23: 5** - When you set your eyes on it, it is gone. For wealth certainly makes itself wings like an eagle that flies toward the heavens.

**Proverbs 28:22** - A man with an evil eye hastens after wealth and does not know that want will come upon him.