

## **REPURPOSED – IT'S TIME FOR A COMEBACK**

### **INTRODUCTION**

As the virus crisis has continued over time, more and more people are being impacted. Problems manifest in many ways including unemployment, loss of accommodation, health scares, the virus itself, depression, loneliness and anxiety.

Businesses are retrenching staff, reducing salaries or closing. Many businesspeople have found themselves without income for a long period of time and small business owners are struggling to make ends meet.

Costs of living have not gone away. Groceries must be bought; utilities and rentals need to be paid. Some financial institutions are offering payment holidays, but sooner or later payments will need to be made with added interest charges.

To aggravate this, as the unemployed sit at home, a sense of helplessness and hopelessness can easily kick in, not only for not being able to pay for things, but those who are used to working may be experiencing a sense of loss of value to society. This can lead to depression and other challenges too.

It's not a pretty picture. This is a very difficult season and it will take faith and godly wisdom to bring us through. The amazing and wonderful news though, is that God's word speaks of times like these and it also has the answers.

I want to speak about two things I believe God is doing in this season:

- Firstly, He is giving much encouragement and hope through His Word.
- Secondly, I want to share how we can use this time of setback to set ourselves up for a comeback through the power of repurposing.

### **MESSAGE**

#### **DON'T LOSE HEART**

**Psalm 27:13** (NKJV) I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living.

Our God is a good God. His nature is good, and He is good to His children. We must not allow the problems we are facing to cause us to lose sight of the fact that we are recipients of His goodness. Don't lose heart! Our faith and trust in the Lord is what gives us strength in difficult circumstances. When we feel discouraged, it's time to remind ourselves of the goodness of the Lord.

**Psalm 27:14** (NKJV) Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!

**1 Peter 5:7** (NKJV) casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

God cares about us. We must never be afraid, embarrassed or too proud to go to the Lord with all our problems. When we feel like we are losing heart, we can run to the Lord and He will strengthen our heart.

## **STRUCK DOWN BUT NOT DESTROYED**

The Apostles faced many troubles. Paul seemed to have more than most but he still made this amazing statement:

**2 Corinthians 4:7-11** (NKJV) But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. 8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.

Right now, you may be facing a circumstance where you don't know what to do next. Maybe you feel like you just can't carry on. I am telling you today, you may be perplexed, you may be hard pressed on every side, you may be struck down right now, but it's not the time to give in, it's not time to despair, its not time to lose hope, it's time to look to our good and loving Heavenly Father and ask Him, "what do I do now Lord?"

***Are you willing to trust God with your future? Are you willing to follow His leading? He is willing to lift you up; He is willing to give you a comeback! All you need to do is trust Him.***

## **A SEASON FOR REPURPOSING**

We are hearing the word repurpose quite a lot right now. What does the word mean?

- To give a new purpose or use to something.
- To adapt for use in a different purpose.

Teachers and people in children's ministry are masters in the art of repurposing. Old toilet rolls can be used to make many craft items, bottle tops can be used for games. Plastic bottles can be cut up and used for stationery holders, the conical top part can be candle holders or funnels. With just a little imagination, old junk can be repurposed in many ways.

**We find some great examples of repurposing in the Bible:**

**Samson repurposed the jawbone of a donkey into an effective weapon:**

**Judges 15:15** (NKJV) He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached out his hand and took it, and killed a thousand men with it. That was not its original purpose!

### **Weapons repurposed into farming instruments:**

**Isaiah 2:4** (NKJV) He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.

### **Water pots were repurposed into wine containers**

**John 2:6-10** (NKJV) Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. 7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. 9 When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. 10 And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!"

Jesus repurposed those pots meant for ceremonial washing and made them holders of the best wine at the wedding.

### **People were also repurposed - Fishermen, tax collectors and a doctor were repurposed to serve in God's kingdom.**

Andrew, Peter, James and John were fishermen, Matthew was a tax collector, Simon was a zealot (a religious sect), Phillip, James and Judas may have been tradesmen. We don't know what they all did, but when Jesus called them, their lives were repurposed to become followers of the Messiah. Later, all except Judas were repurposed again in the power of the Holy Spirit to become mighty apostles and leaders of the newly born church.

### **When we receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour our entire life is repurposed!**

**2 Corinthians 5:17** (TLB) When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!

Once we are in Christ, everything changes; our life is repurposed as our old, sinful life is wonderfully transformed into a new life as a child in God's kingdom!

### **GOD CAN REPURPOSE OUR LIVES TODAY**

**Jeremiah 18:1-6** (NKJV) The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying: 2 "Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear My words." 3 Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. 4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make. 5 Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: 6 "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?" says the Lord. "Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!"

**This is the main point of the message today!** The Potter, referring to our Heavenly Father, can repurpose our lives in the midst of the turmoil we are facing.

This corona virus crisis may have marred our lives in one way or another but that doesn't mean there is no hope. Our God is more than able to take the damaged, mangled mess that seems to be our lives right now and repurpose it into a beautiful new vessel.

- **We may need a new sense of purpose as believers** – God can repurpose us.
- **We may need a new job** – God is able to repurpose us and give us a new source of income, possibly in a different field, but using the skills and personality set we already have.
- A teacher can become an online facilitator, a welder can stop making gates and repurpose himself to make hand sanitiser dispensers.
- **We may be in a business that is currently not able to earn income** – Ask God for new ideas. I was in CTM during the week, their speciality is tiles and bathroom fittings – but now they are selling hand and surface sanitiser!
- What if God wants to give you a whole new customer base?
- What if He wants to take your walk-in shop and repurpose it into an online retailer that can service not just Krugersdorp, but the whole world?

**We may feel like we have lost our sense of purpose in life** – God can, and will grant us a whole new sense of purpose if we only ask Him.

***God is using to transform this season of virus crisis to repurpose our lives.***

- ***Are we willing to raise our expectations?***
- ***Are we willing to say, "I submit to what God is doing even if it means a substantial change"?***
- ***Are we willing to say, I won't let this setback get me down, I'm going to trust God for a comeback?***

## CONCLUSION

The words of the song go like this:

*God will make a way, where there seems to be no way!  
He works in ways we cannot see, He will make a way for me,  
He will be my guide, keep me closely by His side,  
With love and strength for each new day,  
He will make a way, He will make a way.*

Most churches have already had to repurpose. We have had to adapt from meeting in buildings to meeting online. This hasn't been easy, but God has made it possible and today we are reaching more people than what we reached before – we have allowed God to repurpose us. Surely God will make a way for you too!

**Psalm 37:23-24** The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way. 24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.

- Allow God to order your steps – He will direct your steps and show you where to go even if it means a repurposing.
- He will delight in what you do – this speaks of amazing favour!
- Even if you trip or stumble, God will not allow you to absolutely fail – God will catch you, He will uphold you, He will strengthen you and set you back on your feet!

David said this: **Psalm 37:25** I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread.

In all his life, David never saw the righteous forsaken, nor did he see the children of the righteous starving. In the same way we can know that God will NEVER forsake us!

Be encouraged today that as we serve the LORD, trust Him and walk in His ways, He is guiding our steps. We may be experiencing a setback as a result of the virus crisis or for some other reason ... but, God is with us. He has not deserted us and neither does He plan to. He will make a way!

He is Master Potter and we are the clay. Yes, the vessel He was busy with may have become marred by this crisis, but our God is able to repurpose this vessel for better and more effective life and ministry. The best thing we can do right now is to say, "here I am Lord, repurpose me, It's time for me to make a comeback".