



SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Friday, March 5, 2021

Scripture: Isaiah 41:10 / 2 Timothy 1:7 / Romans 8:28 / Job 42:2

TITLE: Enjoying the Thrill Ride

When we were in Florida in December, my kids saw a Human Slingshot. “We gotta’ do it, Dad! Please!!!” “Are you nuts? You really want to be strapped into a ball that will throw you 300 feet in the air and bounce you around for a while? Are you crazy?” Well, they were crazy because they did it and they loved it. They loved the experience because it was exciting and safe. They enjoyed the experience because there was control. It was exhilarating and managed.

You know, we might enjoy our thrill ride of life more, if we trusted God. I’d dare to say that we can enjoy the thrill ride of life, because God is in control and has the power over our circumstances and our lives. What do I mean? Listen to this:

“Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10, NLT)

God is powerful. God spoke the universe into existence. God sustains the universe today. God’s power raised Christ from the dead. And the power is over us, but also through us.

Listen to 2 Timothy 1:7, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.”

That’s right. God’s power is available to us through His Spirit. Now, no, we won’t be able to create planets or make people fly, or whatever, but God does offer us power to endure trials, to love the unlovely, to forgive the unforgivable, to come before God with boldness, and so much more.

But God’s power is only part of the awesomeness of God. God is also in control. What do I mean?

Consider these passages:

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” (Romans 8:28)

“I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you.” (Job 42:2)

“We may throw the dice, but the LORD determines how they fall.” (Proverbs 16:33)

There are many more verses like this. God is sovereign. He is in control. He oversees the falling of the dice, as well as the steps of His children. And there's nothing we or anyone else can do to stop God's plan and purposes. Everything - yes, everything - works together for good.

That means, no matter the diagnosis; No matter the relationship status; No matter burst pipes; No matter plumbing issues, God is there. He sees it. He knows about it. And guess what? God is working it out for a greater purpose that brings Him glory.

You see, when we know and trust God's power and control, we can approach life more like my son and I playing Battle, because it's all under control. God is in control. He cares. When we believe this, we can be strong and courageous in all circumstances.

So here's my challenge for you today: confess to God your doubt. Admit your frustration in the circumstances. The problems are real. The battle is on. But you're not alone. Ask God through prayer for the strength to press forward, and the peace to enjoy the thrill ride of life.

Now, let's go win the day.