

Partners In Courage, June 2014

# The Seven Advantages, Part 2

Sermon by Wes Daughenbaugh

INTRODUCTION: In Part 1 of this message I shared the seven advantages God gives to His own when He honors them with advance notice of coming judgments. Let's review briefly. It would be good to have these advantages memorized.

1. If you know what's coming you can WARN others like the prophets. (Amos 3:7)
2. Get your spiritual armor on as children of light. (1 Thes. 5:1-9)
3. Intercede more effectively for loved ones as Abraham did for his nephew, Lot. (Gen. 18)
4. Make the most of your time to finish your life mission. (John 9:4)
5. Lay up treasure in heaven. Sell property and give before it's all lost. (Acts 4:31-35)
6. Make physical preparations as Noah and Joseph did. (Genesis 6 and Genesis 41)
7. Draw near to God in intimate fellowship. (Isaiah 26:20, Psalm 91)

In Part 1 I shared prophetic visions of several prophetic people, visions that confirmed each other. One was that Israel would go to war with Iran, the United States would become involved, and the United States would force a division of Jerusalem as part of a peace treaty. When that happens, God would cut America in two pieces up the New Madrid fault, approximately up the Mississippi River. The divide between the west half and the east half would be about as wide as one of the Great Lakes.

*After I heard this vision from five different people I began to preach about it.* The prophetic voices were 1. John Kilpatrick, 2. Shane Warren, 3. John Paul Jackson, 4. Adhu Sundar Selvaraj and 5. Maurice Sklar. John Kilpatrick was the pastor of the great Brownsville Revival, Brownsville First Assembly of God. Shane Warren is pastor of First Assembly of God in West Monroe, LA. These are very reliable men. The reliability of the others is not something I can vouch for, but they are saying basically the same thing, with slight variations in their visions.

The prophetic word from Maurice Sklar shocked me the most. The angel that appeared to him said America would be "hacked to pieces like Agag." Then he saw a vision of the country being split in two and great earthquakes along the West Coast breaking off land west of the fault lines and plunging that into the sea. (See 1 Samuel 15:33 KJV)

Since that sermon I've come across a sixth prophetic word by a man named Dr. Samuel Doctorian where he says five angels appeared to him telling of great judgments all over the whole earth. I read a transcript and found one line particularly interesting. "The angel showed me that the United States shall be broken in pieces because of the crisis in the Middle East. There shall be no more United States." This transcript read That the "United Nations" would be broken in pieces—but I'm thinking that doesn't make sense and that the transcriber must have put The United Nations instead of The United States.

\*\*\*\* When you search the Internet for information about Maurice Sklar or Dr. Doctorian you can find very negative articles, along with positive ones. What is indisputable is that there are seven Biblical advantages to knowing when God will pour out judgments upon a nation. Prophecies from individuals must be "pondered" in the heart. But a more authoritative word is of course found in Scriptures. Since I have not had a vision of America's judgment and demise, I will give you what I see in Scripture. *I continue to have a spiritual "perception" that America will be brought to a sudden and tragic end.*

Besides the vision from Maurice Sklar that saw America not only split in two, but also then destroyed in warfare and invaded there are additional prophetic voices who have said the same thing. One was David Wilkerson in his book, "SET THE TRUMPET TO THY LIPS," (published in the late 1980's) and Dimitru Duduman and his grandson, Michael Boldea. Dimitru was sent to America to warn that the country would be judged and destroyed. (They have warned America for 25 plus years) His grandson continues that mission, and also has prophetic dream/visions. You can read them all at [www.handofhelp.com](http://www.handofhelp.com). I believe Dimitru was

credible and I believe Michael Boldea is very credible. Most of you would respect David Wilkerson, author of *THE CROSS AND THE SWITCHBLADE*. Here are additional insights I can find in the Word of God.

## 1. GOD WILL BE GLORIFIED AMONG THE NATIONS BY WHAT HAPPENS TO AMERICA.

God is always concerned about all nations, because He wants people from every tribe and tongue in His body, the church. So when America was founded upon Christian principles and a large percentage of the population lived a truly Christian life, God blessed America and exalted it in the sight of the nations.

**Jer. 33:9 Then this city will bring me renown, joy, praise and honor before all nations on earth that hear of all the good things I do for it; and they will be in awe and will tremble at the abundant prosperity and peace I provide for it.'**

This prophetic word was given while Jerusalem and Judea were falling to Babylonian armies. God said he would bring them back and establish them again. Then, as they lived without idols and lived for Him, He would be exalted through their prosperity.

*The principle here has certainly applied to America.* America has brought God renown, joy, praise and honor before all nations on earth who have heard of all the good things God has done for us. They have trembled at the abundant prosperity God gave us.

\*\*\*\* I call this A POSSITIVE WITNESS. However, even though America, as a nation has turned her back on God, God will be glorified through this nation. However, now it is going to be through a NEGATIVE WITNESS.

When God did great things for His servant, King Hezekiah, officials came from far away Babylon to congratulate the King on all of God's blessings. Nations far and wide heard of his fame as one blessed of God. But because the nation went into apostasy under Hezekiah's son Manasseh God promised that the nations would fear Him, not because of blessings, but because of fierce wrath shown to Judah.

**Jer. 22:6-9 For this is what the LORD says about the palace of the king of Judah: "Though you are like Gilead to me, like the summit of Lebanon, I will surely make you like a desert, like towns not inhabited. I will send destroyers against you, each man with his weapons, and they will cut up your fine cedar beams and throw them into the fire. People from many nations will pass by this city and will ask one another, 'Why has the LORD done such a thing to this great city?' And the answer will be: 'Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God and have worshiped and served other gods.'"**

When Judah and Jerusalem were destroyed and only a tiny remnant survived as captives in Babylon one of the officials of the conquering army spoke to Jeremiah.

**Jer. 40:2-3 When the commander of the guard found Jeremiah, he said to him, "The LORD your God decreed this disaster for this place. And now the LORD has brought it about; he has done just as he said he would. All this happened because you people sinned against the LORD and did not obey him.**

**SOON ALL THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD ARE GOING TO RECEIVE THE NEGATIVE WITNESS FROM AMERICA.** They will ask, "Why has God destroyed America, torn the land to pieces, made it a devastation, ruined its cities, ripped open the land and made it's destruction appalling to the whole world?" The answer will be. "Because they abandoned the Lord their God and went off to serve other gods." So just as America exported Christianity through missions, a great witness for God's glory will go to the entire world. How much better it would be for America if the witness we gave was one of prosperity and exaltation because of our honoring God. But how bitter will be the witness we give to the world by becoming an example of what He will do to the wicked. **Jude 7 In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.**

## 2. GOD WILL GIVE US A SIGN OF THE COMING DESTRUCTION.

For many Christians it is still too much to believe that our great land, vaunted, as the one remaining "super-power" in the world will be destroyed and cease to exist as a nation. I've noticed in scripture that when a coming judgment is announced and it is almost unbelievable in it's awesome consequences that God gives a

SIGN that it really will happen. That gives the disobedient ONE LAST CHANCE to get right with God before the final destruction comes.

\*\*\*\* An example of this was when Judah was destroyed during Jeremiah's lifetime. The few Jews that remained went as a group to Egypt, disobeying God's instructions to remain in the land of Judah. God had promised to give them favor with the Babylonian officials. But they feared them and went to Egypt. God told them that every last one of them would die in Egypt and that His wrath would pursue them there. He told them the sword they feared would follow them to Egypt and all of Egypt would be destroyed by the Babylonian armies.

They just couldn't believe that. So God gave them a prophetic sign. Jer. 44:29-30 **“This will be the sign to you that I will punish you in this place,” declares the LORD, ‘so that you will know that my threats of harm against you will surely stand.’ This is what the LORD says: ‘I am going to hand Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt over to his enemies who seek his life, just as I handed Zedekiah king of Judah over to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the enemy who was seeking his life.’”**

God told them Pharaoh was going to be assassinated and when that happened it would be a sign that all of Egypt would be destroyed and that they would be judged by God in that place.

\*\*\*\* Jesus also gave a sign. He foretold that all of Israel would be destroyed by the Romans and that the temple would be so decimated that not one stone would remain standing upon another stone. He said, **“When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near (Luke 21:20).**

\*\*\*\* I believe that in a similar way, God is going to give us a sign that America will be destroyed. If America is literally cut in two pieces by a giant earthquake, then you will know that God is going to destroy America as a nation. I believe a financial collapse will precede this great earthquake. Pastor Shane Warren first saw a vision of a financial hurricane hitting America where the dollar became worthless and then he was shown a vision of the nation being split in two.

### 3. WE ALREADY HAVE A SIGN THAT GOD IS GOING TO DESTROY AMERICA. IT IS THE SIGN OF GOVERNMENT MAKING ALL THE WRONG DECISIONS.

\*\*\*\* In October of 2012 my wife and I went to Orlando, Florida to hear Ken and Annie Schisler in person. Annie told us that the Lord had shown her that every decision of the government of Argentina would be wrong and that it would cause great chaos. Then she said that the same thing applied to America. Every decision the American government made would be wrong, she said, and it would bring great chaos.

\*\*\*\*\* When God turns the government of a nation into fools and turns them against their own people, it is a sign of coming national destruction.

\*\*\*\* God promised to destroy Egypt through the armies of Babylon, according to the Word of the Lord spoken by Isaiah the prophet. Is. 19:11-14 **The officials of Zoan are nothing but fools; the wise counselors of Pharaoh give senseless advice. How can you say to Pharaoh, “I am one of the wise men, a disciple of the ancient kings”? Where are your wise men now? Let them show you and make known what the LORD Almighty has planned against Egypt. The officials of Zoan have become fools, the leaders of Memphis are deceived; the cornerstones of her peoples have led Egypt astray. The LORD has poured into them a spirit of dizziness; they make Egypt stagger in all that she does, as a drunkard staggers around in his vomit.**

\*\*\*\* How could a government make wrong decisions every time? They could only do that if God was judging the nation by pouring out upon them a “spirit of dizziness.” God pours out a spirit of dizziness on nations He has pre-determined to destroy. I'll leave it up to you to decide if you think our government is making one foolish decision after another. If you don't listen to the news, then you may not be aware that many laws are being changed or not enforced by the executive branch to the exclusion of Congress and these lawless acts are increasing. Bad decisions include the removal of all troops from Iraq and allowing the nation to fall into chaos and civil war, refusing to okay the Keystone Pipeline that would bring oil from Canada to our ports in the Gulf which would create thousands of jobs, refusing to enforce our own border security laws and virtually

importing illegal aliens, including many members of Mexican gangs and children with many diseases. Not to mention taking in \$1.9 trillion in taxes last year but spending \$1.40 for every \$1.00 taken in.

My opinion is that this is a sign of greater judgments to come. God does judge nations by giving them oppressive governments. Zech. 11:16 **For I am going to raise up a shepherd over the land who will not care for the lost, or seek the young, or heal the injured, or feed the healthy, but will eat the meat of the choice sheep, tearing off their hoofs.** Again, in the case of Egypt during Isaiah's and Jeremiah's day, God warned of coming national destruction two ways: by the assassination of Pharaoh and by government that had gone crazy.

#### 4. GOD IS ABLE TO MAKE ALL THESE JUDGMENTS WORK FOR GOOD TO THOSE WHO LOVE GOD, BUT NOT IN THE WAY WE WOULD PREFER.

\*\*\*\* The welfare of God's own beloved ones is always uppermost on God's mind. As the Scriptures say, we are engraved on the palms of his hands. Is. 49:16 **See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.**

\*\*\*\*\* I've been pondering the meaning of a certain vision given to Annie Schisler. I think it has great significance for us. "When he opened my eyes to see I saw far below upon the earth a mighty stone which was larger than a great mountain. This stone did not appear to have any evidence of life, light or beauty in it. He then took the stone, lifted it up and cut it off from its roots. I was amazed to see a great stone like that with roots, for I had thought that only trees and other growing things had roots. But this stone had great roots reaching far down into some kind of a base or foundation. He first uprooted it and then cut off all its roots and removed it from its base. He then proceeded to set it upon a new base. This time he set it upon Himself as a foundation. Just as soon as He became the foundation of the great stone, life, light and glory rushed up into it making it a glorious stone full of life and great beauty.

"When He spoke He told me that He was going to do this very same thing unto His own."

\*\*\*\* *As I read prophetic visions by various people, it seems to me that God is bringing so much judgment and chaos to the world in judgment of evil people that His own people are going to be uprooted from all their comfort zones. These familiar comfort zones make us feel very secure and safe but give us no glory, light or radiant life.*

Whatever is involved with uprooting this great stone, which represents the Body of Christ in the world, it is going to seem very traumatic to the church. To be uprooted is one thing. To have the roots cut off is another. I believe the times we are entering into will be so filled with earthquakes, wars, terrorism, plagues, riots, financial crashes, floods, storms and the like that there will not be any earthly comfort zones left. *God's people will no longer identify with the earth and worldly system as their source of security, comfort, pleasure and peace.*

As we look at the church in America today, it is much like the great stone as Annie first saw it—with no apparent signs of life. When our comfort zones are destroyed it is going to seem very traumatic, as if God doesn't care or doesn't love us. But we will end up finding Him as our comfort zone, our source of greatest pleasure and delight. As a result, the uprooted church will be planted upon a better foundation and great life and glory will come into the church so that it will be much better for us.

\*\*\*\* Not even the most spiritual among us look forward to this uprooting process. We are like a little three-year-old boy, getting his first haircut. We need it—but we don't want it! However, no matter what we do, we will not be able to stop this process from happening. God is going to glorify His church in preparation for the return of Jesus in great glory.

**My humble opinion is this:** since God is going to uproot the church and cut off all roots to earthly comfort zones we could make the process a lot easier if we would STOP trying to re-establish earthly comfort zones. If we would let go of them we could more quickly be planted on the firm foundation of fellowship with God's presence, the most secure and comforting place of all. We would have the attitude of Paul who said, Phil. 3:8-9 **What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.**

We could avoid a lot of the trauma associated with storms, floods, loss of liberty, riots, food shortages and the like if we'd just decide not to FRET this uprooting process. If we tell ourselves we are all going to die if we are uprooted, then the trauma of it will be much greater than if we tell ourselves, "God is cutting off our old roots that kept us rooted in worldly comfort. *Something much greater and more glorious is coming! I won't lament the loss of what had no glory, but I will anticipate the coming of great glory, life and light as God becomes my everything.*"

## 5. GOD'S GREATEST ANGER IS EXPRESSED WHEN HE CUTS IN PIECES.

Maurice Sklar claims to have seen a vision of a great angel hacking the statute of Liberty into pieces and God told him that America would be "hacked to pieces like Agag." (1 Samuel 15:33)

That got my attention because that's how God speaks when He is *especially* angry. *He talks that way to nations that have aroused His wrath to the fullest extent.*

EXAMPLES: Is. 30:9-14 **These are rebellious people, deceitful children, children unwilling to listen to the LORD's instruction. They say to the seers, "See no more visions!" and to the prophets, "Give us no more visions of what is right! Tell us pleasant things, prophesy illusions. Leave this way, get off this path, and stop confronting us with the Holy One of Israel!" Therefore, this is what the Holy One of Israel says: "Because you have rejected this message, relied on oppression and depended on deceit, this sin will become for you like a high wall, cracked and bulging, that collapses suddenly, in an instant. It will *break in pieces* like pottery, shattered so mercilessly that among its pieces not a fragment will be found for taking coals from a hearth or scooping water out of a cistern."**

Ezek. 16:39-40 **Then I will hand you over to your lovers, and they will tear down your mounds and destroy your lofty shrines. They will strip you of your clothes and take your fine jewelry and leave you naked and bare. They will bring a mob against you, who will stone you and *hack you to pieces* with their swords.**

Hosea 5:14 **I will tear Israel and Judah as a lion rips apart its prey.**

Hosea 13:8 **NLT Like a bear whose cubs have been taken away, I will tear out your heart. I will devour you like a hungry lioness and mangle you like a wild animal.**

Amos 3:12 **This is what the LORD says: "As a shepherd saves from the lion's mouth only two leg bones or a *piece of an ear*, so will the Israelites be saved, those who sit in Samaria on the edge of their beds and in Damascus on their couches."**

Matt. 24:45-51 **"Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. *He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.***

\*\*\*\* It behooves us all, then, to live and act like the faithful and wise servant who takes care of other servants of the master—being a servant to God's servants. Let us faithfully fulfill our service to our Master so that instead of judgment we receive PROMOTION.

## 6. SHOULD WE FLEE FROM AMERICA?

If God speaks to you and tells you to move to some other country, then do it. But if that doesn't happen, then there are two powerful reasons to stay right in America.

### 1. Catastrophic judgments will be coming to all the nations of the world.

Both Maurice Sklar and Dr. Samuel Doctorian reported seeing visions of worldwide judgments. Samuel Doctorian says that five angels appeared to him and told him the judgments that would be poured out all over the world. The angel over Asia said that "millions will die in China and India. Nation will be against nation, brother against brother. Asians will fight each other. Nuclear weapons shall be used, killing millions."

The second angel was going to pour out judgments over Israel and all the Middle East countries. “The second angel said, ‘Harvest time has come in Israel and the countries all the way to Iran.’ I saw those countries in a few split seconds. ‘All of Turkey and those countries that have refused Me and refused My message of love shall hate each other and kill one another.’ I saw the angel raise the sickle and come down on all the Middle East countries. I saw Iran--Persia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, all of Georgia, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, all of Asia Minor—full of blood. I saw blood all over these countries. He said, “I saw the angel raise the sickle and come down on all the Middle East countries. Smoke was rising from everywhere, sudden destruction, men destroying one another. I heard these words, ‘Israel, Oh Israel, the great judgment has come.’ The angel said, ‘The chosen, the church the remnant, shall be purified. The Spirit of God shall prepare the children of God.’ I saw fires rising to heaven. The angel said, ‘This is the final judgment. My church shall be purified, protected and ready for the final day.’”

Dr. Doctorian supposedly had this vision of the five angels back in 1998. It is interesting that the Sunni Muslims and the Shia Muslims truly do hate each other and we see them fighting each other right now in Syria and Iraq in bloody civil wars—one side supported by Saudi Arabia and one side supported by Iran.

The whole world is sinful. I think if we moved from one country to another we would be like the man Amos talked about who ran from a lion only to meet a bear, who escaped from a bear into a house, leaned against a wall and was bitten by a snake (Amos 5:19). Judgment will be everywhere. *The only safe place is in the Spirit.*

## 2. There are spiritual responsibilities that should not be shirked. We will be needed.

\*\*\*\* Michael Boldea had been working for 25 years with his grandfather and then after Dimitru Duduman died, he had carried on the mission of warning America of coming judgment. He was on a trip to Romania and considered just moving back, believing he had fulfilled the mission of warning America. He wanted to get out before the judgment falls. God gave him this spiritual dream/vision.

“That same night I had a dream. I dreamt I was standing at the edge of a cliff, overlooking a valley that stretched out below me. Although it was night, the valley was not dark due to the dozens of fires that were burning all around the valley. Large white tents peppered the valley floor, and men dressed in white were hurriedly preparing. Some were sharpening swords, others were polishing shields, but the selfsame look of purpose and determination was evident in the countenance of every one.

“As I continued watching I was startled when a hand touched my shoulder. I turned and stood face to face with the same man I had seen in my dreams on previous occasions.

‘What do you think they are doing down there?’ He asked pointing toward the valley and the men.

‘It looks like they’re preparing for a war,’ I said, gazing back at the valley.

‘And what do you call a soldier that flees the battlefield on the eve of battle?’

‘A deserter,’ I said.

‘A deserter,’ he echoed. ‘Why would the Father train and equip you for the coming battle only to release you as the battle is about to begin? *You think this is the end but it is not.* The need for light is multiplied as the darkness grows, not diminished; the need for truth becomes more necessary as deception consumes the innocent, not less relevant. In these dark hours the children of light must shine, in these evil days the truth must be proclaimed with boldness. You can choose to flee, but it is not the Father’s will. You can stay and fight, and thus receive your just reward. The world has tainted many who ought to have stayed pure, and many have defiled themselves who ought to have remained undefiled. They have gorged themselves on Nebuchadnezzar’s delicacies, thereby disqualifying themselves from being used in these days. The hosts of heaven stand ready even now to do battle on behalf of the righteous. Do not fear the coming days for they have been foretold. Walk in the authority that has been given you and do your duty as a faithful soldier ought to.’

“As the man finished speaking, I opened my eyes and was surprised to discover I was in my bed.”

## 7. WHAT SHALL THE RIGHTEOUS THINK AND HOW SHALL THEY LIVE?

### 1. Live with confidence in God’s ability to provide for, protect and lead His own.

**Isaiah 43:2** When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

\*\*\*\*\* Sandwiched in-between warnings of national destruction is God's promise to the righteous.

**Isaiah 3:9** The look on their faces testifies against them; they parade their sin like Sodom; they do not hide it. Woe to them! They have brought disaster upon themselves.

**Is. 3:10** Tell the righteous it will be well with them, for they will enjoy the fruit of their deeds.

**Is. 3:11** Woe to the wicked! Disaster is upon them! They will be paid back for what their hands have done.

2. Live with a desire to be used of God to catch men for Christ.

\*\*\*\* If you have ever been fishing, you know that they bite best when it is early morning. In our younger days, my wife and I would drive to the coast and spend the night in the car so that at 4AM I could dig kelp worms from the barnacles exposed by a minus low tide. Then we'd catch ocean perch, two at a time. We endured much physical discomfort and thought it was fun and exciting because the fish were biting!

It seems to me that the vast majority of American Christians would be happy if they could have a safe cabin somewhere to enjoy life while the world goes to hell. *Face it. If you had your choice between hardship with good soul winning, or safety and comfort without soulwinning, which would you choose?* God knows which you would choose, so He will make the choice for you and REMOVE one of those options. My Mom used to sing a song called "Let The Rest Of The World Go By." A line I remember says, "We'll have a sweet little nest, somewhere in the West, and let the rest of the world go by." Sounds lovely.

My point is, you might as well learn to fish! You might as well get into it! Get the joy of a fisherman! Endure hardship for the exhilaration of the big catch! There's one big last catch to be brought in.

\*\*\*\* I heard a joke that I believe is innocent but it is memorable and will help you remember my point. It's about a young salesman who worked at a huge mega-store in their sporting goods department. On his first day he sold over \$100,000 to just one man. He had sold fishing poles, coolers to store fish, tackle, bait, a new pick-up truck, a trailer to pull a boat, a very nice fishing boat and a powerful engine—all to one man!

How did you do it? His boss asked.

"Well," the young salesman said, "This guy wandered in asking if we sold aspirin. I said, Sure, but why do you want aspirin?"

He said, "My wife and I came 500 miles to this beach area for a romantic weekend. But she has a headache." I said, "That's a bummer. You might as well go fishing."

\*\*\*\* The Apostle Paul had a particularly good time of fishing for men during a series of calamities. First there was two weeks of being caught in a Nor'easter storm at sea, then a violent shipwreck, then snakebite, and then a plague. By mixing grace into each problem God turned each one into a miracle for Paul. He was able to lead all the soldiers and sailors to Christ (273 unsaved men) and all the natives of the Island of Malta. The fish were biting! (See Acts 27-28)

\*\*\*\* Are you prepared to fish for men? Have you ever learned to present the Gospel? Wouldn't it be wise to get some training in that and really learn how to fish?

\*\*\*\* When I was 18 years old I got to fly to Fort Walton Beach Florida to pick up a 300-pound bottle-nosed dolphin. We flew "Lucky" back in a twin engine Beach Craft airplane that had most all the seats removed. Lucky was put on foam padding and my job was to keep him sponged in cool water because a dolphin's body temperature is something like 108 degrees. As long as they are in cool water, they are fine. But on land, at room temperature, they will literally burn up. So I was sponging him down as we flew.

Suddenly we hit turbulence. Since I didn't have a seatbelt, I was thrown to the top of the plane and banged my head. The dolphin and I were bouncing all over. The owner was screaming, "Don't land on him! Don't land on him!" I braced my back against one side of the plane, put my legs over Lucky, and pushed against the other side of the plane. That held both the dolphin and me in place. My co-worker was buckled in a seat and was violently airsick for the next six hours. I didn't get sick at all. It was such an adventure for me! It had been a thrill, exhilarating! It's one of my fun memories from life!

My point is this: If we get our mind on the welfare of others—and get involved saving people and helping and serving and discipling, I think we'll have such an exhilarating time with the Holy Spirit that we

won't get sick over the physical discomforts. But if we are just focused on ourselves and how much we are being bounced around—then the storm will be miserable.

**3. Study God's Word so that you can obey it. Do what God likes!**

When you read the major and minor prophetic books in the Bible, most of the verses just describe the judgment coming to the sinful. *There are just a few verses that tell people what to do. In other words, living for God is not complicated.* Here's what the prophets said TO DO.

**Zeph. 2:3 Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger.**

**Amos 5:14-15 Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the LORD God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is. Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the LORD God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph.**

**Amos 5:24 But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!**

**Jer. 5:1 "Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, look around and consider, search through her squares. If you can find but one person who deals honestly and seeks the truth, I will forgive this city.**

**Is. 58:6-11 "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. "If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail."**

**Is. 1:16-17 Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.**

**Mal. 4:1-3 "Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire," says the LORD Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them. But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall. Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things," says the LORD Almighty.**

**4. Expect help from angels.**

Michael Boldea awoke to find an angel standing at the foot of his bed. "The Father has sent me to strengthen you," he began. "You have said in your heart, 'I know what is to come and do not fear it, but if it be your will, protect the one I love.' Come, see, and be strengthened," the man said, extending his right hand. I took his hand and instantly we were on a high plateau that was very large in size. As I looked and my eyes began to adjust to the dusk, I realized we were not alone. A great army was standing at attention, all dressed for battle, swords in hand, each one glowing it seemed from within. There were rows, upon rows of angels, in armor, in perfect formation. It was a stunning sight to behold. I was speechless as I scanned the great army, extending as far as the eye could see. Suddenly the man standing next to me gave an almost imperceptible nod, and the entire army ascended toward the heavens, like a million fireflies, and began to disperse each one going his own way. Still too stunned to speak I followed the lights with my eyes, until I could see them no more. Before I could ask any questions, the man looked at me and smiled. "They are the guardians," he said. "They are the protectors of the righteous. Soon all will see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between those pure of heart and those in which darkness still resides. Soon it begins." As he spoke these words, the ground began to shake under my feet, and I heard a powerful explosion to my left, then another to my right. As I woke up, I could feel a searing heat on my face. (April 19, 2005). I LOVE YOU. GOD BLESS YOU.