

CHAOS or ORDER

Request: “How do you keep faith and not fall apart when everything around you seems to be falling apart and your life is in chaos?”

Recently, my daughter Angela faced similar questions from both students and professors affected by the Virginia Tech University shooting (4/07).

**This lesson will study FIVE aspects of the question:
How do you keep faith when everything around seems to be in chaos.**

1. The primary source of chaos is the devil (Gen.1:1-2). The devil is the evil one (Matt.6:13; 2 Cor.4:4; Eph.6:16).

Let me mention four areas of chaos promoted by the devil.

- One area of chaos is war in a nation (Rev.20:1-3, 7-8; Isa.2:4; Joel 3:10) [MA].
- A second area of chaos is depravity in a community (Gen.19:5-9; Rom.1:24-31).
- A third area of chaos is dysfunction in a family (Gen.50:19-20).
- A fourth area of chaos is OMCD in an individual (Mark 7:14-23) [13 things].

2. The primary source of order is God (John 1:1-5; 1 John 1:5-9).

God can bring order out of chaos on the basis of grace working through faith (Acts 26:9-18, 28-29; Rom.1:16).

“For God is not a God of disorder (chaos) but of peace (order).” (1 Cor.14:33)

Let me ask you a question, “Do you feel that there are situations or people in your life that has caused your life to be spinning out of control? (yes or no)

- If you said (YES), it means that your faith is based primarily on your own ability or determination to control or protect you or yours.
- If you said (NO), it means that your faith is based primarily on your ability or determination to control or protect you and yours.

3. Circumstances, people, things are secondary not primary sources of chaos or the feeling that your life is spinning out of control. Do not engage in the blame game!

What is the primary source for chaos? _____ (devil / OMCD)

What is the primary source for order? _____ (God / NMDV) (Rom.12:2; Eph.4:17-32).

Circumstances, people, things should never determine your happiness or unhappiness in CWL. Otherwise your life will be like a YO-YO always going up and then going down.

4. It actually becomes as simple as YOURWILL (chaos) verses GOD’S WILL (order). Jonah is example of this conflict of wills.

- Josh.1:1-2 The directive will of God GO!
- Josh.1:3 The permissive will of God NO! (OMCD)
- Josh.1:7, 10-11, 15 The overruling will of God Oh, Oh!
- Josh.1:17; 2:1-2 Chaos and divine discipline Oh, no!
- Josh.3:2 The directive will of God GO!
- Josh.3:3 Walk of faith OK (2 Cor.5:7)

5. Beware of the false belief that as a Believer you could do something that would put you outside of God’s sovereign control of your life.

I am not talking about outside of God’s will but outside of God’s control.

- Reversionism and severe divine discipline couldn’t put Jonah outside the sovereign control of God.
 - “Our fathers discipline us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness.” (Heb.12:5)
- The same was true for the prodigal child in Luke 15:17-24.

6. In closing, You might ask, “Why should God be in charge of everything since He has given me a mind to think and volition (free will) to decide?”

My answer: “Because the devil is the primary source of chaos in the world and the devil is the primary enemy of God and believers (Eph.6:12).”

The devil tries to bring chaos in God’s world of order. This was illustrated in the Garden of Eden story of Adam and Eve (Gen.3:13; 1 Tim.2:14).

The devil operates by deceit and guile and attacks truth of God’s will in us and fights dirty. He will enter your world as wolf amidst sheep in sheep clothing (**Matt.7:15-20**/ pay attention to their behavior and not just their words).

Peter was an example of OMCD type deceit in Matt.16:21-23; 26:33-35; 69-75.