



**“Life In A Pressure Cooker”**

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**Withered Hand Ministries, Inc.**

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## **“Life in a Pressure Cooker”**

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**Opening Prayer**

**Father, pray by, through, and in Jesus' name and in His shed blood, recognizing His great sacrifice at Calvary. I pray LORD, that your honor & glory be manifested in this work. May your countenance smile through it: to strengthen the redeemed, and to add souls to your kingdom.**

**LORD, I ask that your hand be upon it. May Your HOLY SPIRIT'S presence anoint this work!**

**Father, I ask you; yes Lord, to charge your assigned ministering angels to accompany this work of faith as posted guards, removing any hindrances that would come against this work. God... I pray, you use this work to show the people that you are the unchanging God.**

**Your word declares it, that what you were yesterday, you are today, and will be tomorrow!**

***Hebrews 13:8***

## Preface

**M**uch of the pressure today is the by-product of uncertainty. We are faced every day with International up risings and turmoil in our streets here in America. We are faced with 13 year old kids bringing guns to school and not afraid to use them. Because of the emotional unrest, many are losing their jobs and their homes. Life today in this ever changing world can be challenging and dish out its load of unexpected Uncertainty. Uncertainty or not being prepared for unexpected events can cause anxiety. Anxiety produces worry and worry causes tension, emotional strain and pressure.

**T**his book is a viable tool to give us some insight as to how we can use this pressure of life as a stepping stone to increase our faith and our power with God. Day after day of inward pressure tends to wear us down and keep our minds focused on the wrong thing. My prayer is that you the reader will realize that these pressures and trials can become a good thing in your Christian pilgrimage and most of all; they will make Christ even more real in your life.

## Chapter 1

### Turn Up the Steam

I remember as a young boy watching my grand mother place a pressure cooker on the stove and instruct me to steer clear of it because they have been known to blow up. I remember walking by it cautiously as I observed the steam coming out of a small orifice in the top cover. There would be a whistling noise coming forth which fascinated me. I don't claim to know much about these pressure cookers, but I have been told that they cook stuff faster than usual. The electric eye on the stove would heat the water in the cooker until it produced steam and the orifice on top was designed to keep it from building to much pressure. I can also remember watching my dad fire up a pressure washer that had a boiler on it. The boiler was designed to heat the water flowing through it and turn it to steam. My dad would use this steam under pressure to wash off some auto parts he had disassembled. My dad was an excellent mechanic at a major truck line and had a good sized garage at his home where he did work on the side to make

some extra money. There were instances that the pressure washer would build so much pressure that it would trip a pressure relief valve and fill the whole area around my dad with steam to the point that he could not be seen. This used to scare me and caused me to run back in the house. He needed the hot water to do a proper job of cleaning the parts that he was working with. The pressure washer would not have the cleaning power without the boiler heating the water. The boiler ran off of diesel fuel which was kept in a tank on its chassis. The washer had a connection for a water hose to be screwed on to and would flow the water through special made tubes in the boiler then out through a hose to the wand my dad held in his hand. In order for the pressure washer to function properly, there had to be a steady flow of water mixed with steam coming out of the hand held wand nozzle. I think you now have the picture in your head that if dad was to clean his parts properly, he had to have a lot of steam coming out the end of his hand held wand. The more pressure he had the more power the washer produced and this was accomplished by the



heated water which was converted to steam. The bottom line would be on this wise, if we want more power at the nozzle, we must turn up the pressure. We can use an automobile as a demonstration. The automobile is powered by a combustible gasoline engine. The engine is designed with pistons that go up and down in a cylinder with a timed revolution which turns a crank shaft that is converted into a controlled power source that turns a drive shaft which turns the wheels. The pistons are inserted with a supplied amount of gasoline and air. This mixture is then ignited when the piston is at the top stroke. This is a controlled explosion which pushes the piston down thus turning the crank. The gases are allowed to escape through special timed valves which open. Let's say we are doing 30 miles per hour and we desire to go 65 miles per hour. We are able to accomplish this by pressing a special pedal which opens a special valve thus forcing more gasoline into the combustion chambers. Now we have it. If we desire more power then we must increase the pressure. The same holds true to the old trains and boats that operated by steam. They

operated by placing more fuel sources in the fire box which would heat the water to a boiling point and the controlled steam pressure would cause pistons to move special rods that are attached to wheels or propellers which caused them to turn and produce power to move the object. Again, the bottom line is that if we desire and ask for more power then we must increase the pressure. This same procedure holds true for us in our Christian pilgrimage. I see people all the time approach their pastor and request prayer for power to have more of God in their life. There is only one way to get it. (Trials)

1Peter 4:12-13

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing has happened unto you:

13 But rather rejoice, insomuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that when his glory is revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

Chapter 2  
More Fuel on the Way

**We** just discovered in chapter one that the way to increase power would be to increase the pressure. I say unto you the reader that the way to have more power in our spiritual life is for us to have an increase of pressure. In order to better understand this procedure, we need to go to the word of God.

2Corinthians 1:8, 9, 10

8 For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:

9 But we had the sentence of death in ourselves that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raised the dead:

10 Who delivered us from so great a death, and doeth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us?

When Paul was in Ephesus which was in Asia, it seemed as if he had gained nothing from the mission. Paul gave us no details except there was some kind of trouble that erupted in this city. He had just escaped death and now this journey seemed hopeless. Paul spoke of being under such intense pressure that he and the men with him were despaired even of their own lives. It could have been a sickness or it could have been some kind of mob violence. It appears that the Corinthian people knew what the trouble was. Paul informed the people with him that they needed to trust God which could raise the dead. Paul stated that they were pressed beyond their human strength and the only hope they had was God. This is what pressure will accomplish in us. It will press us out of our selves. The pressure must be great enough to press us beyond our human strength and any out side source of hope we may be hanging on to. It needs to be powerful enough till we see no hope and if God does not intervene, we will surely suffer defeat. This is how we grow in the walk of faith.

**W**e must come to the end of our selves until we have no hope but the living God. When we come to the end of our selves and sink down and have no hope in human strength, this is when the victory of the cross comes into shining view. Remember the old gospel tune, “When I looked up, and He looked down”. Yes dear reader, as we sink down with our trust in him, the Living God reaches through the clouds with those nail scarred hands and lifts us up. God allows us to suffer and be put in a no win situation that we are unable to conquer. This is better equipping us to comfort others and put our trust more in him. I have found that when I have come out of a severe trial, that I will have more of the anointing of God on my life and ministry.

**D**ear ones, we are anointed to go through the trial before hand”. I believe what she is saying is, God has anointed us for the position before he places us in it. He is not going to place you there then anoint you. You have been prepared and anointed for the position before you arrive. You dear saint, will be the one with new ideas and able to solve problems that will arise because of

the one that lives within you who knows the end from the beginning. The devil does not realize that the more he is allowed to test you, the more power you are going to have with God when God's grace brings you out on the other side.

Beloved, there is no such thing as skipping over the mountains tops without going through a valley. What I am trying to say is that the valley experience is like doing your regular exercises which strengthen the muscles. So what are you waiting on, pray that you will be counted worthy to be a faithful soldier of the cross of Jesus Christ?

Are you now ready to flex your muscles? Endure hardness as a good soldier and when life gives you a lemon, make lemonade.

### Chapter 3 Surrounded By Influences

**We** find in the preview of this book that much of the pressures of life today come from good and evil influences. These can be from other human beings or they can be from satanic influences. We are going to make an impression on those around us. My question is, it going to be a positive influence that will help promote the Kingdom of God, or is it going to be a negative influence, usually caused by opening our big mouth without thinking how it will affect those around us.

**Dear** reader, it is the way that we handle the trials that come upon us that will determine our level of trust in God. If we channel the pressure right, we will allow it to lead us to a place of sincere prayer which will bring us to a place of power. We will find the Living Christ in this place who is ready to deliver us from the strain and stress which if allowed going unchecked could actually kill us physically.

There is not one person in the whole world worth you allowing them the power to control your life. Only God has that right, if you have completely turned it over to him. God does not expect you to become somebody's trash can. There are some people that you just have to love at a distance.

Dear Saints of the most high God, if you desire to climb up the ladder and be able to freely allow God to use your gifts, then you must align yourself with people who are already there. I assure you that they did not get there over night. If we align our self with others, we tend to pick up some of their habits. It is a fact that we grow up and learn to become a person by imitating others. We need to read and study the life of our savior Jesus Christ and imitate him, and then we will be more able to influence others in a positive way. You've probably heard preachers make the statement "do as I do". I wonder if we follow them around for a day if we would really like to imitate them. We need to place our trust in God and not man for man will leave you holding his coat.



The trials in our life produce patience and patience is the crowing glory of grace in our Christian life. When we have patience in a trial and God delivers us out of it in his time, then this produces character in us and that is what he is after. This gives us more courage to be examples to others by showing what Christ can do for his children. I believe that is why those chosen before the foundation of the world to be leaders in the end time revival, are usually the ones that have had to brave the hardest trials. These trials have brought them to a place of brokenness. The word says that God is nigh them that are of a broken heart.

Psalms 34:18

The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Psalms 51:17

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Chapter 4  
Grounded In Grace

I am so full of the power of God starting this chapter that I am about to say my Sunday school lesson backwards. My, my, my!!

Glory, Glory, Glory!!!!!!

**G**od is in this book and I ask you the reader right now to take a few moments and call up on his blessed holy name. Day after day of inward pressure tends to wear us down but thank God, his word declares that where sin abounds or has free reigns, the Grace of God did much more abound. Rom. 5:20

I want to emphasize again saints that Christ is in this place to deliver us by his Grace. We are grounded in him and when we realize this in its fullness, we do not feel the pressure of the trial but we feel his abiding presence and grace. Glory!!! I used this story when preaching on this subject some years back and I would like to share it with you. There was this potter who made a beautiful vessel out of clay and set it aside. After a while, the potter decided to place the vessel into the fire that it might be hardened

and stay together. In my story, I allowed the vessel to have a voice to better demonstrate to the audience what our life would be like without the trials that test us. In my story, the potter approached the beautiful vessel and asked if it was ready to go into the fire that it may become hardened and stay together. The vessel began to complain about the way it was made and informed the potter that he did not consult with it about the way it wanted to look. The potter placed it back upon a shelf and left it there for a few days. Later, he decided to see if the vessel had changed its mind and received a sharp reply of no. Again, the vessel began to complain about the way it had been made. One day the potter checked on the vessel and it was falling apart because of not being hardened by going into the fire. By this time the entire vessel had fallen apart until all it had left was a voice. The potter asked the vessel if it had changed its mind and received a different reply. It no longer cared how it looked or what church it was to pastor for it was falling apart. This time the potter wet the clay and began to put the vessel back together each time asking it what it wanted

to be and look like. The vessel replied, it no longer mattered what it looked like or ministry it was being fashioned for, all it wanted was to be in the body. The potter placed it into the fire and it was not long until the fire did not hurt. The vessel was being hardened like glass and was singing in the fire. The potter (Christ) takes it out and brushes it off and places it on his Father's table. The Father takes off its top lid and retrieves a vessel carrying the precious blood of his son and pours it into the newly formed vessel on the table until the Glory of God is permeating the room. I ask you dear reader, are you ready to go through the fire? Paul was informed when he had the thorn in the flesh that God's grace is sufficient. This means the more the trial the stronger the power of God will be to deliver us through the test. The enemy wants to keep our mind occupied with the cares of this world which causes us to lose our focus with God. We must keep our eyes and hope upon him. If he left us to our selves, we would become like the stubborn useless vessel.

## Chapter 5

## Our Destiny is in the Process

Too many people today have their eyes on their destiny but that is not what God is looking at. Beloved, God is more interested in the process because in these trials is the education that is going to make us what we need to be to be able to fulfill our destiny. I am talking about the persecutions, the truce breakers, the heartbreaks, broken relationships, being cheated and lied on even being framed. Yes this is what is breaking our spirit and our will. These trials Paul said worketh for us a greater weight in glory. Once we go through enough of these we get to the place where we will either give up or go forward. This is testing time and we need these tests for us to realize it is not about us but about him working his grace through us. We get to the place where we do not depend upon man's approval because we know we have his approval. We are not so easily moved by the needs of others for we know from experience if we step in to meet their need, we may be keeping them from going through their test as

we have already come through ours and there was none that stepped forward to help us but God. It is like helping a butterfly out of its cocoon. We felt compassion for its struggle but if we cut it out of it's would be prison with a knife, we will discover that it will not be able to fly because the struggle it must undertake to get out is what will strengthen its muscles to fly.

The struggle we must endure to pass our tests is what will develop us for our destiny. I have discovered that once we get the promotions, titles, and positions, they really do not mean that much anymore because of the struggle we had to endure to get us to that place. We are not easily persuaded when faced with circumstances and we are not quick to respond for we have matured in our faith. We have learned to think before we react and instead of reacting to a situation with haste, we respond with firmness to find a desired solution. When we come to this place in our life we will then realize that everything the devil used against us is what God will use to propel us into our destiny. Remember our purpose is what will get us to our destiny for we are is chosen ones.

## Chapter 6

*Making Memories that will last*

There are many people today are over loaded with the cares of this world and have neglected to concentrate on making happy memories with their family which will pay off more in the long run when they reflect back on their life. Our time with our family should be enjoyable and leave us with some happy memories when they are no longer around. It is time to put some margin in our life which will give us breathing room. I am talking about wisely investing our time where it counts. Margin is the space we allow between our load and our limit. Did you know that you can invest your time and get a dividend from it but you cannot save it? Once a precious second of your life is gone, you can never get it back. Overload comes when we have too much going on in our life. We could take a day and follow someone. This would surely tell us what the most important things in their life are. Where we invest our time will reveal what is most important to us. Time cannot be saved, if we don't use it, then we will lose it forever. People love to take

short cuts. They invent appliances that will save time like microwave ovens etc. Time cannot be bought but it can be spent and invested. Where are we investing our time? We can invest our time through encouraging words. A person can tell if your faith is important to you by listening to your words. We need to invest our life in to others by giving back out of the things that we have been blessed with. We can use our time and talents to make a difference in the lives of others. We can invest in people by being a true friend that they can count on no matter what comes their way. The Living God has invested in every one of us and he expects to get a return on his investment. Yes, the Living God invests in common ordinary people and some have made it in to his blessed book called the Holy Bible.



## Chapter 7

## Living In a Stretched Society

**W**e are living in a world that seems to be in a hurry to go nowhere. This fast pace tend to work on our physical health and damage our relationships. We all know that relationships must be maintained and need time to cultivate and provide the comfort that we need. In this chapter, we are going to understand how to manage our time wisely by making room for margin in our busy schedule. Living life in the fast lane will not only wear us out but will also take a toll on our body. This will produce stress which can readily increase our risks of developing chronic health problems. Even a race car needs a pit stop for maintenance for high performance. Like a computer which requires a scheduled time to dump its memory banks, our body needs adequate rest and some down time to unwind. Don't wait for a heart attack or stroke to cause you to slow your fast paced life down. What good is all your hard work if you are not around to enjoy the fruits of your labor? We as humans need time to think, relax,

and enjoy the life that has been allotted unto us. Nobody on their death bed ever said, I wish I had spent more time at work? It is time for us to learn the power of saying the word No. If we do not manage our time wisely, somebody else will do it for us. Learn to take a break and get out of the survival mode we tend to get in when we allow things to over load us. We place our self in a survival mode in order to make it through a busy day. In this mode, we can only think of our self and neglect our family. We even tend to neglect God in this mode because we hate to think of adding something else to our busy schedule. We do not have to live in over load and survival mode. We can enjoy life and time with our family if we make room for margin which will allow us room to breathe. We can then enjoy our walk with Christ and make our self available for him to use us. Yes, we can make our self useful for the master's service.

Time is a precious gift and we need to use it wisely. Others may be overloaded but making memories and saying no to family intruders will allow us time to treasure, invest, manage and enjoy the life that the Living God has blessed us with. Find the off button on that cell phone, and turn off that favorite TV show. Your family needs you after being away on a business trip. What good is saving the world and find that you have lost your family. Ministry begins at home so be the priest of your home and enjoy your beautiful family. Every day, many are losing their jobs, homes, and do not have enough money to pay their bills. We can read today's news paper and find our selves in a barrage of negative attacks which can war against our faith. Some are taking their lives because they feel that there is no way out of their situation. Life seems hopeless to them. Your family needs you now more than ever. We cannot help anybody by trying to be someone that we are not. We need to be who God made us to be and serve his purpose in our generation.

Chapter 8  
The Unseen Realm

The living God revealed to me when I was a young seminary student why he made man. He informed me that Satan did not challenge him on his power but on his justice before all that he had created. He said ok, "Let us make man in our own image and likeness". God made man and gave him free will and you know what happened when man was tested in the Garden of Eden. God made man with the perfect plan in place to redeem man should he break the one law and fall from grace. God knew that the evil tempter would be there and persuade man to break the law and be sentenced to isolation from him. God knows the end from the beginning and nothing takes him by surprise. God had a plan in place before he made man. He reviewed each life that would be born and knew that man would get so wicked that he would have to send a flood and destroy all but eight of Noah's family. His word says that he waited for the time when Noah would be born. God decided to make a way to save a lower form of life (Man) to save a

higher form of life (Angels). There had to be questions in the minds of the angels that stayed loyal to God during satins rebellion. After all, they might have been friends with some of them. I want to tell you that God wiped all the question marks away when he became man's savior and suffered being tried, convicted, and executed as a criminal in mans place. Let's look at it this way, There was this judge who ruled by the letter of the law and would not give anyone a break. One day his mother was brought before him being caught in a terrible crime. She was found guilty and he sentenced her to the fullest extent of the law. He then stepped down from the bench and removed his robe. He stretched out both hands and asked the bailiff to arrest him. He informed the court that there was not any stipulation in the law that would prevent him from serving his mothers sentence. I don't know how you look at this story, but this heathen judge that did not regard the persons of man, cared enough for his own mother that he was willing serve out her sentence. Now friend, that is what I call love.

Dear reader, this is what God did for you and for me. He could not make another Adam with God's original blood from the Earth that had been cursed. In the fullness of time, God the word stepped out of eternity and was placed in the virgin Marry for the sole purpose of going to the cross and becoming man's redeemer. The word declares that "He, who knew no sin, was made sin for us". Yes, God took off his robe of judgment and paid mans sin debt being made a curse for us. We have historical records where man have died for their faith being thrown to lions and becoming spectacles for all to see.

In the scriptures below, God is allowing us through the psalmist David, to catch a symbol of his power. Notice the many emblems of protection that is available to all of us.

2Corinthians 9:8

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you: that ye always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.

Psalms 18:2

The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer: my God, my strength, in whom I will trust: my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

## My Conclusion

Beloved, we can read today's newspaper and find ourselves in a barrage of negative attacks which can war against our faith and our way of life.

Some today are taking their life because they feel that there is no way out of their situation because life seems hopeless to them. We hear reports all the time of someone being bullied and shamed in school. These are young lives and their reputation means everything to them. Because of this smear on their life they would rather face death than go back and face these people ruining their life.

Where are the praying mothers that used to stay awake to watch the nightly news hoping to get a glimpse of their son fighting in a war on foreign soil? Where are the mothers that would pray over the children before sending them to school?

Dear reader with all the murder and suicides occurring throughout our land please know that your family needs you now more than ever.

We cannot help anybody by pretending to be someone that we are not.

We need to be who God made us to be and allow him to serve his purpose through us to our generation by reaching out to a hurting world that is confused and looking for answers.

Dear reader we are in a desperate need for someone to break out of the norm and seek the Lord with all their heart to be used as a mighty man or woman of God in these last days.

Here is the bottom line of this hub and that is that in order for there to be life there has to be conception and for there to be conception there has to be intimacy.

Beloved, you do not open your curtains and allow others to see what goes on in your home with you wife because that is personal between you and her.

She sees and knows all about you and you are not ashamed for her to know you in that way because you are bonded together under the covenant of marriage.

The same is true as you seek the Lord and get to know him and you do not disclose all he what he reveals to you because of the intimate relationship you have with him.

Because of your intimacy with the Lord you are going to spiritually conceive and remember this precious seed must be hidden and protected as it goes through the growing process.

Some of you are already pregnant with the plan and destiny the Living God has chosen for you and you are about to give birth as the precious life drops into the birth canal causing your water to break and that is why we must get back to purity and holiness before a perfect creator because he says in his word that "without holiness, no man shall see the Lord".

Do you want to be intimate with him who is holy, just and perfect in all his ways then read John 15 verse 16 as it states that you did not choose him but he chose you for the purpose of using you to leave his signature through you to your generation?





