

176th
Annual Session

Chain Lake District Missionary Baptist Association

VIRTUALLY

Doing Ministry in **TURBULENT** Times

Acts 1:8 NLT

Acts 5:39 NLT



July 13-16, 2020

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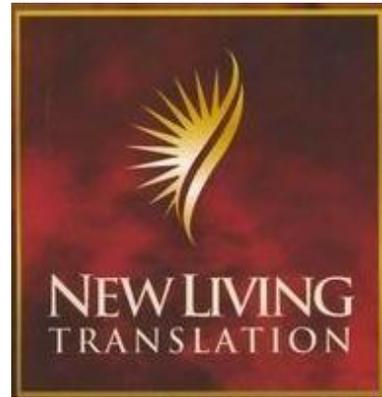
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Acts 1:8, But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”



Acts 5:39, But if it is from God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You may even find yourselves fighting against God!”

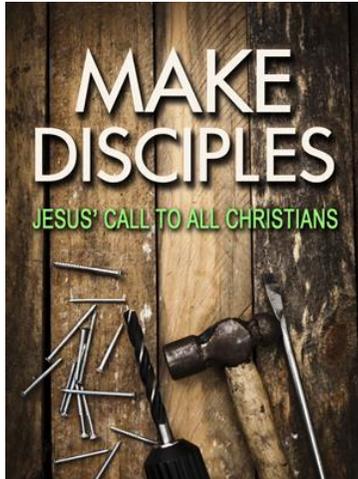
When flying, many times the plane must navigate through turbulent weather. All of a sudden the wind blows, the thunder roars and the lightning flashes. But, the plane was



built to travel through the turbulence. In the turbulence, the plane keeps flying even in adverse conditions. The pilot reminds the crew and the passengers of the steps to take during the turbulence.

They must change their behavior, but the plane never stops and still reaches its destination on time. In the year 2020, the church has to navigate the turbulence of Covid-19 and active racism but she is built to keep going, especially in adverse conditions. The message to the church is that our behavior must change and we must do some things differently, but our mission has not changed. God has allowed His church to become





uncomfortable but His assignment to the church has not changed. Therefore, God expects the church, even in the midst of turbulent times, to get results (make disciples). The Pandemic of 2020 has proven that man does not have the answers and really does not know what to do. But, for the people of faith, we know that our answer is in God and our direction must come from

Him— [Proverbs 3:5-6](#), [2 Chronicles 20:12](#).

We must never forget that the church was birthed during turbulent times and even thrives during crisis. The birth of Jesus occurred during turbulent times. The people of God were being oppressed but [Galatians 4:4-5](#) states that in the fullness of time when the time was right, God sent the solution to the problem that mankind could not solve. In the Book of Acts, the church had her most phenomenal growth during turbulent times.

Through persecution in [Acts 7](#), Stephen was stoned to death; the church scattered, actually doing what God commissioned them to do in [Acts 1:8](#). That's

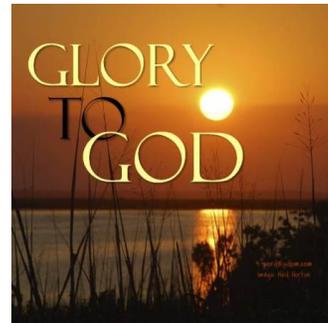
what God has now done with His church. He has allowed Covid-19 to scatter the church to do what He commissioned us to do—[Matthew 29:19-20](#). So, for the church of the Living God, turbulent times give us hope and anticipation because we know that God is in control and growing His church. Nothing can stop the power of God's



Word—[Isaiah 54:17](#), [Isaiah 55:11](#). Whatever God has called the church to do must be done regardless of the times. If the church cannot do what God has directed, she is extremely disobedient or God did not say do it.

To Do Ministry in Turbulent Times, leaders must:

1. **Desire to Get God Results**—[John 15:5](#), [2 Chronicles 16:9](#). We must not



become distracted by the rhetoric of the world. The times should push us

to desire what God wants. Our primary desire must be to please and glorify God—[Psalm 1:1-](#)

3. When leaders have a desire to get God results or the results defined in the Word of

God, God is obligated to infuse you—[Psalm 37:4](#), [Zechariah 4:6](#).

Remember, ministry is meeting the needs of others with the love of God, through the power of God, which draws individuals into the presence of God—[John 12:32](#), [Matthew 5:16](#). It is during turbulent times that needs

are exposed and hearts are more open

to the things of God. In these times,

God has opened windows to the hearts

of those who would not normally hear



Him. This is where believers become more aware and sensitive to the

harvest—[Matthew 9:37](#). The world is seeking relief that can only come from God through His church.

A. **Automatically Seek God—[Jeremiah 33:3](#)**. When your desire is to get God results, you automatically seek God. That is when He now directs your path.

2. **Don't Allow Tradition/Culture to Hold You Hostage—[Mark 7:9](#)**. *Culture and tradition can be one of the greatest hindrances to Doing Ministry in Turbulent Times*. There is a natural tendency to do what has always been done



or what has worked before. To get God results, we must always move when God moves—[Philippians 3:13-14](#). We are now seeing what we have not seen before; therefore, we must do what has never

been done before. Remember, Jesus teaches that we cannot put new wine in old wineskins. Rick Warren states in his book, The Purpose Driven Church, that

God creates the waves and we must ride the wave God creates.

That simply means that we must always move to where God is



working. That's one sure way of knowing that what you are doing will work—

Proverbs 19:21, Isaiah 55:11. Spencer Johnson says in his book, Who Moved My Cheese, that we must move because the cheese has moved, died, or become distinct. Many times our culture/tradition is the greatest threat to a productive



future. In the Pandemic of 2020, God has shifted the church and moved the cheese.

Now we must not be afraid to try different methods to achieve God results. Don't be afraid to try

something new during these times. Just because you can't do things the way you have been accustomed to doing them does not mean it cannot be done—

Isaiah 43:18-19.

3. **Daily Respond to the Prompting of the Holy Spirit—Proverbs 3:5-8.** Always

remember that you do not know where you are going but God does. That is what faith is and what God requires—**2 Corinthians 5:7.** As you obey God, His voice becomes louder and clearer—

Psalms 37:23-25. The Holy Spirit will always keep you on the cutting edge. He is always speaking, but we must respond



in obedience when He speaks—**John 16:13.** Do not delay when prompted by the Spirit of God. God is a God of timing. When you delay, you jeopardize the power of obedience. Do not hesitate when what God says looks totally different

than anything you have seen or done before. The Spirit knows how to navigate turbulent times—[Isaiah 30:20-21](#), [1 Corinthians 2:9-10](#).

4. **Develop a Team Approach to Ministry**—[Ephesians 3:20, 4:16](#); [1 Corinthians](#)

[12:7](#) NLT. Many times in the midst of crisis or turbulent times, there is a tendency to try to go it alone. There are no Lone Ranger Christians. Whatever God has instructed us to do is bigger than us and requires the assistance of others. Make sure you

develop a team of believers to help navigate during these times—[Proverbs 24:6](#), [Proverbs](#)



[11:14](#). The team is where good ideas become better and the best ideas become great. Make sure the team is gifted and not afraid to exercise their gifts—[1](#)

[Corinthians 12:9](#). It is the leader's responsibility to recognize and deploy the



gifts needed to get results. This is where age or length of time should never be a factor. God can and does use whom He pleases and when He pleases. The person

who is gifted and able to get results must be deployed at this time—[Ephesians](#)

[5:21](#).

5. **Deploy New Leaders During These Times—Ephesians 2:10, Esther 4:14.** Since the Word of God is true and since God is Sovereign, turbulence did not take God by surprise. He has supplied the answer before the turbulence occurred, but we must recognize the answer in the person God chooses. Often times the answer comes through new individuals. Don't be afraid to allow different people to lead. Remember, you want the best person to the times who is capable of getting God results. The person who understands the times must be given the opportunity to lead at this time—**1 Chronicles 12:32.**

the best
person for the job?

6. **Devote Yourself to Continuous Prayer and Meditation—Joshua 1:8.** The Holy Spirit always keeps you on the cutting edge. When I say continuous prayer and meditation, I mean always have your assignment in your mind. As you do this, God begins to speak to you through various life situations. Make sure you do not limit hearing from God only through your Morning Prayer time or the time you set aside to commune with God. Remember, His ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts—**Isaiah 55:8.** God talks



whenever He pleases, not according to our schedules. As you drive; spend family time; walk in the yard; or just sit and relax, God speaks and makes His ways known to you when your mind is surrendered to Him. This is often an overlooked and unnoticed step. God speaks though all means to the person who is continually aware of His presence. Often times the most difficult decisions are made easy and confusion is cleared up.

