

# **“Thanking God in the Storms of Life”**

**By Brother Arman Jorge**

**Sunday, November 19th, 2017**

Thank you, Bob. Definitely, that was powerful message. You’re keeping me up on my toes today. I’m gonna go straight through with my message today. This morning’s message is, “Giving Thanks in the Storms of Life.” When I was preparing for this message, a lot of things is coming up to my head, you know, about being thankful. And, you know, we come to church, you know, we come to church, we pray to God, we give thanks, we honor Him, we respect Him, because of the things that He does for us, because of the things that He blesses us with. And we gave him honor and praise, because... Even though, sometimes we don't, really. You know, He gave us a blessing, even though, sometimes, we don't deserve it, He gives it to us anyway. And, my question to myself was, “Am I saying thanks to God in a way that God wants to hear it? Am I saying thanks to God, and is He accepting my thanks in the way, you know, that He wants to receive it?” You know? Because, sometimes words, isn't much of a sacrifice. You know, because sometimes you can say thanks, and then you go on living your life, and you seem so unthankful to God, or to other people. I came across an African proverb, and it says, “Even the hen raises her head up towards heaven, when swallowing her grain. It says even the hen lifted up her head toward heaven, when swallowing her grain. I've seen that; I used to work in a farm, I have seen this hen, and going like this. You know, every single grain, the hen swallows that grain. You know it's sort of like you and me as a person, you know: When we’re really, really thirsty, we go and we swallow that water, every single drop of that water and say, “Thanks.” You know, we do, we do. And I saw this person in the Philippines and nothing wrong with him, he drinks his water this way. He drips all over himself. That's not a very thankful person, I'll tell you that. My first Scriptures for the day--My first part of the message today is rules and relationships.

## **Part 1 Rules and Relationships.**

My Scripture is in Colossians chapter 2 verses 6 and 7, and it says:

**Colossians 2:6-7** *As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.*

It says when we receive Christ in our heart as our Lord and Savior, walk in newness of life. And built up in him, the strong foundation the solid foundation of Jesus Christ, with what? established in his faith, whose faith? in Jesus Christ's faith. As we grew up, we've been taught a lot of that, every time. And, abounding with the abundance, the abundance of Thanksgiving.

I have a definition of rules. It says rules is an accepted principles or instruction which states the way things are, or should be done, and tells you what you are allowed or are not allowed to do. Rules. I mean, why rules? Because God wants us to do the right thing. He wants His people in the straight path

of righteousness. You know, many of you have rules in your house. I've had rules in my house. I am going to mention a couple of them. My rules in my house are: Communication: no TV during the school week, except for one hour. And saying please, and thank you; saying, please and thank you. Is that followed to the T? Obviously not. I've constantly got to go like this, "Get back in line." And, truthfully, God does the same way to us as individuals. He's given us the Ten Commandments Not because it's to be followed to the T, it's because it's a guidance, it's a guide to us. To get back in the lane, once we go start going astray. Get back in the lane, we have that reference that God has given us. And, I must tell you, though, I must tell you, I must tell you this: Without greater things to stand on, rules are going to be tough to follow. Without greater things to stand on, rules are going to be tough to follow. Because, church, this is where relationship comes in. Relationship comes in, and Jesus is the Master of relationship. If you ever want to know anything about relationship, you need to come to Jesus. And, who else knows the relationship except than to His people, His child, you know? And relationship is like, you know, my daughter, I have a good relationship with my kids. At least I think so. At times, maybe they don't think so. But I'm going to stick to my statement right now. My daughter Ashley she, you know, I do a lot of good things for her and take care of her. But she showed me; she tried to connect to me, she tried to do some things for me. She would always when she wants to be sweet to me, she would call me, "Papi, what are you doing?" And I mean exactly like that, and she would call me sometimes different names, "Papa, where are you?" I mean, sweet like that. And so I'm like, you know, I'm really nosy, I asked her, I said, "Ashley, why do you call me like that?" She goes, "Daddy, there's two things in the letter p left: pee-pee and poo-poo. Which one you want?" And I said, "I'll stay with Papa." She didn't really say that; I was just trying to kind of get a laugh out of you. But I do call her Poo-poo, though, but don't tell her that; she's gonna kill me because I call her Poo-poo a lot.

And so I want to you know all of us all of us--each individual--all of us are equipped to obey the rules, the rules of the relationship with Jesus Christ. All of us are equipped to follow the rules. You know, if you don't have a good relationship with your son and your daughter or with anybody you can forget the rules, I'm going to tell you that right now, you can forget the rules. You have to have that rules.

I have heard--you probably heard the story about this poor lady, poor lady called in to a radio station. She called into the radio station and she said, "God, help me." On the radio station. And there was this man, an unbeliever man, who happened to be listening to the radio program. And, so, this man said, "I'm going to make fun of this lady." And, so, somehow, he got her address. And, he called his secretary, he said, "I want you to go to a grocery and I want you to buy some groceries, a bunch of groceries and I want you to deliver to this address." And he gave her instructions, and he said, "When you get there, tell the lady, if the lady asks, tell the lady, if she asks who it came from, tell her it came from the devil." And so, and so this lady, she was puzzled. So, okay, she went to the grocery store, got the food; got a whole bunch of food, and knocked on the door. Got that food, knocked on the door. She got there kind of late and knocked on the door, and the lady opened. You know, gave her that food. And she was like, "Oh, thank you so much." Took that food put it on the table. And the secretary said, "Excuse me, Ma'am, don't you want to know who that came from?" And, the lady came back and said, "Young lady, Thank you so much, you know, it really doesn't matter who it came from, because I know God, if He order someone to do something, even the devil, they have to follow. Even the devil." Is that the kind of relationship that we want? Thy will be done. That's the kind of relationship we should want, that kind of relationship with God. Even the devil will follow in your favor.

Part two of my message. It's called mixed emojis or emotions.

## Part 2 Mixed Emojis or Emotions

How are your circumstances? Bob touched on this today. How are your circumstances? I wonder if there's a way to thank God, that goes beyond speaking, words to live, gratitude even when we don't feel thankful in our circumstances. Acts twenty-seven, thirty-five, this is my next scripture.

**Acts 27:35** *And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat.*

And the story behind this: This is Apostle Paul, he's in the middle of transferring, going to Rome because he's going to face Caesar. And, they were in the ship, and in the ship, they encounter a very, very bad storm, and that's what happened, you know? Apostle Paul and the crew, they were really--they didn't know what to do--they were really scared. Apostle Paul decided to minister to them. He said, "Listen, guys: It's been fourteen days that you guys haven't eaten; you need to eat. Don't worry, because God told me every single one of you are going to be saved, except for the ship, not a hair on your head will fall. Nothing. You guys are gonna be safe." And that's what Apostle Paul shared with them.

And you know, I had a similar story to that, I asked my son Aaron, when I was going to do this, I told him, "I was going to do a sermon, and I'd like to share your testimony." He says, "Dad, go ahead, if you think it will bless someone." And, what happened was, last year, he took an assignment to his job. And this assignment is going to require him to go away from the family, and away from the church for about six months. He was going to stay there for six months, and he's got a free place to live. He's just got to take care of his food, and he came to me, he said, "Dad. I am going to go away, and I need to do this." I told him, I said, "I don't think that's a really good idea. Because you're going to be alone over there, you're going to be separated from the church, you know, we're not going to have a lot of fellowship. It's just you and yourself." But you know, sometimes in life, you just have to let people make mistakes. They need to experience that for their life, they do. You've just got to be around them and support them, and make that good connection, you know, and that's what happened. Okay, two weeks before his assignment ends, he calls me up one night, and he was in tears. And, excuse me. He was in tears, and he said, "Dad, I don't know what's going on." I said, "What's wrong?" "I can't sleep, I can't eat, I don't know what's going on. I have lost a lot of weight already. I don't know what to do." And, you know, it was so easy to say, I told you so, it was so easy, but I didn't say that. "Doggone it. I told you not to go over there." I didn't say that. But I didn't say that; I said to him, I said, "I know what you're going through, I know what you're going through," and that's what I said to him, "I've been there, I've been there." And, what I was going through, I told him a little bit: "I got down on my knees, I prayed, I connected with God, and I read His Word, and I think positive things." And on that phone I prayed with him, we prayed, and after we prayed I told him. "Aaron, before you go to bed, I want you to pray again. I want you to read, pick any chapter in the Book of Psalms and read. Pray before you read. And, after that, go to sleep, listen to Christian music, put it on your ear, and let it fall. If you fall asleep, you fall asleep, but think positive." And so the next day I called him, I woke up in the morning and I called him

up, I said, "How you doing?" He said, "Dad, I did what you said what I was supposed to do and I was able to sleep. And I was able to go all night." I said to him, "You have two more weeks. I need you to do the same thing every night. Every night, I need you to do the same thing. Get down on your knees, get connected with Jesus Christ, get connected with Jesus Christ." And, church, depression happens to be one of the major things that we go through in life, and I got stats here, it says 25 million American suffer from depression each year. It says 50 percent of all people who die by suicide from major depression, and one includes alcoholics who are depressed, this figure rises to 75 percent. It affects nearly five to eight percent of Americans ages eighteen and over in a year. And it says more Americans today, suffer from depression than coronary, heart disease, cancer, and HIV positive. And that's the fact, church. And, I tell you, Jesus said in John, Jesus said that the thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. But Jesus said. Also, that I come that you might have life that you might have it more abundantly. Church rules, rules is going to get you that college you need, rules is going to get you the house, or that car that you always wanted. Rules is going to get you that corporate ladder that you always been dreaming of, but if you don't have a relationship with Jesus Christ, you don't have a relationship with anybody, you're just a barracuda in that company! You've got to have a solid relationship with Jesus Christ if you want to go through in the midst of a storm, by being thankful for it. We have to go through it. And another thing, and another thing: Don't tell God how big your storm is, tell the storm how big God is; that's what you've got to do every day.

Church, I was praying the middle of the night; I woke up in the middle of night, and, praying for this message this morning. And, I was afraid; I said, "God, I need--you know, I know I'm talking about a relationship," and God told me, He says, "Do you want a relationship with me? Do you want a solid relationship with Me?" And I said, "Yes, God, you know, I do." And He says, and He says, "Empty your closet, empty your closet." I said, "God, what are You talking about? I mean, what closet? I mean, what are You talking about? I teach Sunday School. I come here. What are you talking about?" And God said, "Clean your closet." And, you know, I remember, I remember there is a CD that I used to play a lot, when I was single. And, I kept that CD, all the way, until today. But, I had never played it anymore, for a long time, for years. It's just there, I just kept it. And God said, "Clean your closet." I went through that closet and searched for that CD, and took it, and snap it in the middle, and threw it in the garbage. Church, if there's anything hindering your walk with God, start to throw it in the garbage.

Let's pray. Let's pray: Jesus, I just want to thank you about, Jesus, your message, today. Have you brought, have you delivered, have you received God? God, if there's anything that's hindering my life, I need You to tell me, even when it's an uncomfortable time of day, Jesus. God I want you establish my faith, our individual faith, our ministries faith, in a way that you want it, the way that the world can't--they can say, "Who's the God of this people?" God, open up my heart, Jesus, because there's a storm out there, that we are going to come across, and we want to be thankful for that, for that storm, Jesus, and You, alone, is going to bring me through that. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.