

What Can Christians Do When Disasters Occur?

by John T Polk II

QUESTION: What can Christians do when storm destruction occurs?

ANSWER: The church of Christ began on the Pentecost after Jesus was raised from the dead (Acts 2:22-47). In a short time, Stephen was stoned to death (Acts 6-7), and: "At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles" (Acts 8:1). Sometime later, "Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword" (Acts 12:1-2). He seized Peter to kill after "the Days of Unleavened Bread" (Acts 12:4). "Peter was therefore kept in prison but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church" (Acts 12:5).

Notice:

- 1. In the midst of that turbulence of persecution and death, the church "gathered together" to pray (Acts 12:12) and did what they could: ask God for help;**
- 2. The church of Christ did NOT take to the streets to demonstrate against the obvious injustice, NOR resort to violent retaliation;**
- 3. The church of Christ did NOT enlist the assistance, prayers, or sacrifices of unbelieving Jews, idolaters, or other "religious" people, because only "priests" (a.k.a. Christians) can offer proper sacrifice before God (1 Peter 2:1-5);**
- 4. When tragic events occur, sometimes the best, and only, thing the church can do at the time is gather and pray! Then, when opportunities to do more reveal themselves, arise and help!** Even the world faces hurt with an appeal to "gather together" for encouragement, while the church of Christ appeals directly to God. "Continue earnestly

in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving" (Colossians 4:2). In Heaven, "The smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand" (Revelation 8:4).

5. On God's earth, things happen to all alike, both good and evil. There are blessings, as Jesus said: "That you may be sons of your Father in heaven: for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5:45).

There will be death: "it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). **There is destruction:** "The fear of the wicked will come upon him, And the desire of the righteous will be granted. When the whirlwind passes by, the wicked is no more, But the righteous has an everlasting foundation" (Proverbs 10:24-25).

"Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous" (1 John 3:7).

The difference is, the righteous have Bible faith to explain it all. ---jtpll

Free Book: "What Is Sin?"

<https://johnpolkll.com/what-is-sin->



"Instinct is a marvelous thing. It can neither be explained nor ignored."

AGATHA CHRISTIE

It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to open one's mouth and remove all doubt. ~Mark Twain

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Go Now

Webster's dictionary gives dozens of definitions for the word "go." Here are a few select ones: "to move on a course...to proceed without delay...to apply oneself...to maintain or perform a certain action...to come to be determined...to engage in." With those in mind, let's look at some the things followers of God should be going about doing (from verses that mention the word "go").

If we have an issue with a member of the church, we should *"go and tell him his fault between you and him alone."* (Matt. 18:15)

If we have the opportunity and ability to use our talents in God's church, we should, like the father requested of his sons in the parable, *"go, work today in my vineyard."* (Matt. 21:28)

If we have been blessed by the Lord in any way (and we have), we should *"Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you."* (Mark 5:19)

If we believe the gospel message, we should, like the apostles, *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."* (Mark 16:15)

If we have been spiritually healed by the blood of Christ, we should follow the advice Jesus gave to the woman He healed and *"go in peace"* (Luke 8:48)

If we are a person of true compassion, we should *"go and do likewise"* emulating the actions of the Good Samaritan. (Luke 10:37)

If we have any talents for the Lord (and we do), like the apostles and many others in the New Testament, we should *"go and bear fruit"* in His name (John 15:16)

If we are truly serious about our Christianity, we should always be striving to *"go on to perfection"* (Heb. 6:1)

"Therefore let us go forth to Him" (Heb. 13:13)

- Edd Sterchi