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The Naz Prayer Ministry



The Bugout Bag

David is the outdoorsman of our family. He really should have been born with a coonskin cap, but instead he ended up with a head full of slightly unruly red hair, at least when it's not shaved off.

This avid camper and hiker is currently on a quest. He is compiling an impressive “bugout bag.” For those who are not familiar with that term, the bugout bag is a survival kit. When this one is complete, at least one of us in the family should be ready for the storm of the century.

Each of us will encounter our share of storms. The unexpected injects itself, and the unwelcome is thrust upon us. And in our feeble fleshliness we may ask the age-old questions: “Why me? Why now?” In one sense, however, nothing can prepare us for the moment we are suddenly submerged in the swirl of dark days and even darker nights. Even as I write these words, a dear friend of mine watches helplessly as Hospice nurses tend lovingly to his sweetheart of nearly 60 years. Another friend is struggling with a crisis of faith. And some who will read these words find themselves caught in the undertow of adversity.

But even when surrounded by the fog of doubt and hopelessness, be assured, we can weather our storms.

There is indeed a light at the end of every tunnel, but to survive requires more than our best efforts. Our personal reserve of inner strength will inevitably fade in the face of the storm.

But we do not face life alone.

In fact Galatians 2:20 reveals a truth that changes everything: “It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me” (NLT). This is more, much more, that God walking with us. This is God living in and through us.

When we face the unthinkable and recognize our inherent feebleness in the storms of our lives, we know that our hope rests in the presence of the One whose strength shines even more perfectly through our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9).

I imagine that many have sung the words of the Don Moen tune below, but perhaps we cannot fully understand what they mean without Galatians 2:20.

God will make a way, Where there seems to be no way
He works in ways we cannot see, He will make a way for me

He will be my guide, Hold me closely to His side
With love and strength for each new day, He will make a way, He will make a way

Taking Our Next Step Together

Father God, awaken us anew to the wonder of your grace in our lives. Prompt us to turn aside from the carnal enticement to face even the briefest storm in our own strength. Turn our hearts toward You every morning. Help us to keep Your face in focus throughout the day. Fill us with the peace and rest of Your assured faithfulness even in the storm.

