

## Our Survival (Revival) Kit

We have an enemy who is constantly waging war against the believer through tribulations, temptations, distractions and all forms of deception. This fallen world can be a tough place to live the Christian life – to live the values of the Kingdom, to walk full of faith and heart on fire for Jesus.

However, God has given us certain forces, available to the believer, in order to sustain his spiritual life. Those forces are more than a *survival kit* they are a *revival kit*. They are the foundation for a revived heart.

**I want to speak to you today about the essentials to a revived heart and a successful Christian life**

**Opening text: Luke 4:1-4**

*Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days, He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. <sup>3</sup> And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread. <sup>4</sup> But Jesus answered him, saying, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’”*

a) Jesus was in a desert. I have travelled through deserts (in Africa) and I can tell you that a desert is an environment adverse to life.

Deserts hardly sustain life - unless for some (few) well-equipped, resilient creatures in it. Deserts are not designed to sustain natural life: If the sun and lack of water doesn't kill you, its serpents and scorpions probably will.

The world we live in, spiritually speaking, is almost like a desert. What a desert is to natural life, so is this world to spiritual life.

You will never come across a time when a TV broadcast is interrupted with the message: “*now take some time to switch off your TV and be with God in prayer*”.

In fact, the average Australian watches 6 hours of TV each day! By the time you are 60 years old, you will have wasted 15 years of your life watching television. That's a quarter of your life! If you eliminated just one hour a day, that would create 365 hours of additional time each year.

b) Not only Jesus was in a place adverse to *natural* life, but He was face to face with the devil. The devil was after Jesus' *spiritual* life. **Jo.8:44** says that the devil was a ‘*murderer from the beginning*’. Jo. 10:10 says that he came to kill still and destroy. The enemy tried to take Jesus out with a number of temptations. However, Jesus survived the desert and the devil.

**I want to get really practical here today and look at 4 crucial things that should be part of your survival (revival) kit. These are 4 life-**

**sustaining forces, 4 essential tools in your kit that will carry you through anything:**

### **1. THE WORD OF GOD**

*But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'"*

In verse 4, Jesus revealed a powerful life-sustaining force. Jesus' life was sustained by the word of God.

Just as bread is important to sustain natural life, the Word is essential to sustain your spiritual life.

#### **Proverbs 4:20-23:**

*My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. **For they are life** to those who find them, And health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.*

#### **Hebrews 1:3 NIV**

*The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, **sustaining** all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.*

- a) In the parable of the sower (Mark 4:13-20), Jesus taught us that when the word is sowed, the enemy comes *immediately* to try to rob the word (verse 15). Why? Because if he can rob the Word, he will rob life. He uses **5 strategies**: Tribulation, persecution, cares of this life, deceitfulness of riches and offense.

The enemy knows the power of the word. That is why, historically, when the word was taken from the churches in the middle ages, between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century, spoken in Latin only (a language only the educated clergy had access to) and hidden in monasteries, the life of the church left the church then. This was called the dark ages for some reason.

- b) We need to nourish our lives with God's word on a daily basis. Here is what I do with the word:

- Read
  - Meditate
  - Hear
  - Do
  - Speak
- Read systematically – have a reading plan
  - Read spiritually – allow the Holy Spirit to direct you to specific passages
  - Read expectantly – believe that God is going to speak to you through His word
  - Read responsively – how does this passage apply to me?
  - Read habitually

**Make time for God's word:** Man shall not live on Netflix alone!

Not now, obviously, but in normal times the average person commutes at least 30 minutes each way to and from work. In 5 years, that is 1,250 hours in the car or enough for a university degree.

## **2. THE FORCE OF FAITH**

**Hebrews 10:38-39** - *“Now the just shall **live by faith**; But if anyone draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.”*

**Faith will sustain the just. Faith is a life-sustaining force**

**Fear is a life-draining force from the enemy. To be full of life I need to be full of faith!**

We shall be sustained by our faith. The world is a hard place to live in the spirit, to live lives that please God, lives of victory. But we shall live such lives by our faith!

**Romans 11:20** – *“but you stand by faith”*

Paul in the storm had faith and that faith preserved his life:

**Acts 27: 25** – *“I believe that it will be just as it was told me”*

**Psalms 27:13** - *“I would have lost heart, unless I had **believed** that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living”*

I do certain things on purpose to have my faith increased:

- a) I hear the Word on a daily basis
- b) I am selective as to what I allow to come in through my eyes or my ears. I reject anything that could potentially sow fear in my life.
- c) Faith is a muscle that needs to be developed: I exercise my faith on purpose.

## **3. DOING THE WILL OF GOD**

**John 4:31-35** <sup>31</sup>*In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” But He said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know. <sup>33</sup>Therefore the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?” <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. <sup>35</sup>Do you not say, “There are still four months and then comes the harvest”? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!*

What food is to our natural system, serving Jesus is to our spiritual system. Doing the will of the Father is life-sustaining, it is nourishing, it is energizing. That is what kept Jesus going.

It is said that the Dead Sea is lifeless because it only receive water. It has no outflow. It cannot sustain life in its waters because it is stagnant.

#### **4. STAY CONNECTED WITH JESUS**

**John 15:4-5** - *4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*

#### **John 15:4-9 The Passion Translation**

*5 "I am the sprouting vine and you're my branches. As you live in union with me as your source, fruitfulness will stream from within you—but when you live separated from me you are powerless. 6 If a person is separated from me, he is discarded; such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire to be burned. 7 But if you live in life-union with me and if my words live powerfully within you—then you can ask whatever you desire and it will be done. 8 When your lives bear abundant fruit, you demonstrate that you are my mature disciples who glorify my Father! 9 "I love each of you with the same love that the Father loves me. You must continually let my love nourish your hearts.*

Spend time in His presence! Stay connect to the vine.

#### **Conclusion:**

Your survival kit, the key to a revived life rests on these four pillars:

- 1. A daily diet of God's word**
- 2. A lifestyle of faith**
- 3. Serving Jesus**
- 4. Living connected with Jesus**

If you execute the basics you will experience a successful Christian life.