

If You Find Yourself in Crete

Titus 1:5

5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, (NASB)

Titus was a young, dynamic, gifted pastor who was converted under Paul's ministry (Galatians 2:3). Paul was his spiritual father.

It was Titus' godly life that convinced the Jerusalem Council that it is faith in Jesus plus nothing that saves; that circumcision was not necessary. He symbolized that salvation is by grace through faith, not the Law.

It was Titus who delivered the letter of II Corinthians to the church. Titus could be trusted with the difficult assignments. He was strong, gracious, bold, sincere, a man of character and passionately committed to Jesus Christ.

Titus was given a very difficult assignment in a very discouraging and evil place in a town named Crete.

Paul had planted a church there and he needed someone who had the godliness, character and skill to navigate the church through difficult and dangerous waters.

Paul told Titus to "set things in order" in Crete...

Theologically—

Morally—

Spiritually—

Administratively—

Confrontationally—

"Set in order"

"Left"

Three Words and Three Questions Regarding Our Personal Crete's:

I. _____ —God, _____ is my Crete?

Crete symbolizes _____ people and places,
_____ situations, no answer circumstances, sorrow, hard times, times of need financially, loneliness, discouragement and depression, strained and broken relationships, and brutal spiritual warfare.

Let's identify some possible Crete's:

II. _____ —God, what are You _____ through this?

Some reasons you may find yourself in this season of difficulty, this season of sorrow, or discouragement.

1. There are _____ who need you there.

1. There are opportunities for _____ there.

1. There are situations that need your _____ and ability there.

II Corinthians 1:4

1. There are lessons about _____ you will learn there.

1. There are things you need to learn about _____ that you will learn there.

Philippians 4:19

1. Your faith will be _____ there.

James 1:2-4

1. You will _____ some things about you there.

1. There are people God will _____ in your life there.

III. _____ — God, please _____ Yourself.

1. _____ It/Accept It.

1. _____ to God.

James 4:7

I Peter 5:6

1. Ask God, "Please show me what I need to _____ and experience. Don't let me _____ what you have."

James 1:5

1. Start _____ for God.

Jeremiah 29:13

1. Find a new _____

Psalms 98:1

Psalms 40:3

1. _____ something.

Hebrews 11:33-34

1. Claim this: If God has _____ it; God has _____ it.

Romans 8:28

Isaiah 41:2

1. There are _____ who need you there.

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Hebrews 11:33-34

1. Claim this: If God has _____ it; God has _____ it.

Romans 8:28

Isaiah 41:2

Hebrews 13:5

1. Look for a _____ that will come from it.

1. Realize you won't be where you are _____.

II Corinthians 4:17

1. Know that no matter what, you are always just one _____ away from _____.

Tradition tells us that Titus did leave Crete, but one day he went back and lived there until he was 96 years old.

Here is something we dare not miss. The difficult and discouraging places and people you are facing now and in the future, may become your greatest _____ not because they changed or it changed, but because you passed God's test and now, straight from the trial, God brings a huge blessing.