

“Dealing With Bad Times”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of June 24, 2023.

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BIG SANDY, Texas—This article is being written because of the weather event that occurred in East Texas on Friday, June 16. A storm hit the area. Following are some of the consequences from the storm.

- Many people were without electricity in their homes—as it took days for power to return to many homes. (While electricity was restored over the following days, there are still a few people in the surrounding cities who do not yet have electricity.)
- Since our church building was without electricity, we canceled our church service on Saturday, June 17. (We have a tradition of not canceling our church due to inclement weather, but the loss of electricity is the main reason.)
- Although electricity was restored to our building on Wednesday, June 21, we canceled our Bible study that night due to our building not having WiFi to transmit the service on the Internet. (On Thursday, we replaced a damaged router and our experienced people restored our WiFi. On Friday, the company that services our copy machine restored the connection of our computers to the copy machine.)

Reminder of lessons

Here are some quick observations of dealing with the loss of electricity in our homes and towns.

Since I consider myself to be a mild prepper (preparing for rough times), I will mention five observations.

- It has been obvious to me and to my mild-prepper friends that our preparing for rough times was not going to save us spiritually. We have a relationship with the Father and His Son. (None of my mild-prepper friends believe that their efforts replace a relationship with God.)
- Although our preparation was beneficial and helpful in this weather event, we found weaknesses to improve.
- It was rewarding (albeit tiring) to help people during this weather crisis.
- It was heartening to watch family members and neighbors help each other.
- It was beneficial to watch neighbors (who had been disinterested in mild prepping or had been mocking toward those who did mild prepping) develop an informed point of view about commonsense habits of preparing for rough times.

Lesson for Elijah

Following are four different ways God can reach His disciples (1 Kings 19:11-12).

- Powerful wind
- Earthquake
- Fire
- Still small voice

Truth from Christ

- Matthew 5:45—Our Father in heaven makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.
- Luke 13:2-3—Were the Galileans killed by Pilate worse sinners than all other Galileans (because they suffered such things)?
- Luke 13:4-5—Were the 18 people killed under the tower of Siloam worse sinners than all the others who lived in Jerusalem?
- Luke 22:41-44—The Son of God prayed openly and earnestly to the Father—seeking to accept the Father’s will.
- John 16:33—The Son of God encouraged His disciples to have peace by reminding them that they would have tribulation as He did and that He overcame the world.

Truth from Paul

- 1 Corinthians 10:13—God is faithful to provide ways of escape that we are able to bear it.
- 2 Corinthians 1:8-10—We trust in God who has delivered us, does deliver us and will deliver us.