

TALK OF ETELKA AND GÁBOR MUZSLAI/HUNGARY 2=1 EUROPEAN ZOOM CONFERENCE 27.11.2021.

GÁBOR: God bless you all!

ETELKA: Peace be with you!

GÁBOR:

We are Gábor and Etelka Muzslai from Hungary. We welcome you from our hearts to this zoom conference where we talk about how to survive the storms. How we can get through storms, how we can be victorious. This is a very difficult subject. What comes to my mind is that many times we had to learn how powerful thanksgiving is when we get into storms. Now that life is bringing us to a situation as difficult as Covid has been in the past, or the world is living in a harsh situation that the Scriptures foretold that we may be in difficult situations in the last days: misery, wars, diseases, epidemics may come. We can see this now that it seems to be fulfilling and we are living in the end times. And if we are talking about how to survive the storms in a marriage, we need to see that we are in a historical period, in a world age. And it is very important to know that thanksgiving can really change our hearts and can change circumstances, too. Of course, you may ask us why we should give thanks when we are in a storm. Why give thanks when we don't feel gratefulness, when we don't feel joy, but only pain or hardship? And that's a legitimate question. We need to understand these feelings, and God understands them, too. God understands if something hurts us. God understands when we mourn, God understands when we are sad. So Christian thanksgiving doesn't mean we give thanks because we just have great joy and are emotionally overheated. What is this thanksgiving about then? For example, Col.3.17 says, *"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."*

So there are a lot of problems and difficulties in our lives, Etelka may talk about it later. We have faced many, many difficulties in our lives, in recent months as well. Actually, we face difficulties almost every day. But we have chosen in our hearts, Etelka and me that the Lord Jesus is the first in our lives, God is the first for us! And we want that whatever we do or say should happen in the name of the Lord Jesus. We are like His ambassadors. We are the messengers God has sent and this is what floats in front of our eyes when difficult things happen to us, we pray that the Holy Spirit makes us victorious so that what we say or do may be to His glory.

And we are not able to do this unless there is thanksgiving in our hearts to God through Jesus Christ. That is only possible if we are grateful for Jesus, we are grateful for His love that He saved us. I hope you can agree with this, or if you don't know Jesus Christ yet and you are listening to this video that way, we want it to get to your heart that Jesus died for us and that He loves us.

A similar word is Ephesians 5:20 where the word speaks of it: *"always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."* So here in this passage the apostle Paul is talking about talking to each other in words, singing, praising, and giving thanks at all times, for everything. Again, the question may arise that we should always give thanks for everything even if there may have been tensions between us. It's very hard to bear the Covid epidemic, or the attacks on us, or even the tensions between the two of us (pointing to Etelka and himself in the video), and then why give thanks? Surely there is reason to give thanks! For the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit of God is in our hearts to encourage us. And this in itself is already a reason why I can give thanks because when the tensions and difficulties come, the Holy Spirit wants to convince me to change my own heart.

Another very important word is in Psalm 50, and it is also thought-provoking and very important to

see. I would like to quote three verses from Psalm 50, first verses 14 and 15: *"Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High, and call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me."* What are we reading about here? About the children of God making sacrifices. We're making sacrifices. Jesus Christ died for us, to sacrifice himself for us to save us, and we love Him and want to live for His glory, and we must also make sacrifices in our marriage. And it's not good to do that without thanksgiving. The right way to do it is when we give of ourselves, when we sacrifice time - which is the most precious thing - when we give something of ourselves with words, with deeds, to our spouse or to others and this may be a sacrifice which is only good if we to do it with gratefulness.

And there is something very important about this: *"and fulfill your vows to the Most High,"* so the Bible speaks about the covenant. That when we say something, let our hearts be firm that we will accomplish it. For example, we have made a covenant (points to Etelka), and when there are tensions between us or external attacks cause tensions, it must be in our hearts that we have made a covenant, so we strengthen our covenant with our sacrifices that we bring for our common life. But it can only be joyful if we give thanks for it.

Give thanks for your spouse! Give thanks for your hardships - Etelka will talk about this later - and when we read here that *"call me to help in times of trouble and I will deliver you,"* it is a promise that when there are hardships, difficulties, storms in our lives, then we should call for help and He will deliver us. But this is preceded by the passage read earlier to give thanks and fulfill what we have promised. And then, if it is in our hearts to fulfill our vows with gratefulness, then God's promise to deliver us can be fulfilled on us. And to this I would read verse 23 of this Psalm: *"Those who sacrifice thank offerings honor me, and to the blameless I will show my salvation."* So this word also confirms that when we are in difficult times, in storms, we have to make sacrifices and if this feels very difficult, thanksgiving and glorification help us to pay attention to the path that Jesus Christ has given us as disciples, to pay attention to the road we have to walk on together as a couple and be mindful of this road. Thanksgiving and praise help us to stay on track consciously. And if we can do this from our hearts and by faith, He will show us the salvation of God, He will show us the way to salvation. That is why it is so important in storms to have thanksgiving and praise in our hearts. Obviously, often we can't give thanks for our circumstances because they may be very difficult! Why can we give thanks then? For the love of God! That He is always with us. So thanksgiving is an act of faith that I trust in you, Lord, even when I am in storms.

ETELKA: Yes, and God's deliverance doesn't always come the way we plan or how the ideas are in our minds. It says the word that Gábor read: *"to the blameless (i.e who cares for the road) I will show my salvation"* so it means that we have decided that we will go down this narrow path all the way to heaven, and we must take care of this road. And we have an enemy, the Satan, who always brings such warfare operations into our lives to divert us from this narrow path, and often uses marriage for this, because marriage is a relationship in which we have promised each other that we will endure each other for a lifetime, in good, bad, illness, health. We will love each other and support each other under all circumstances, and Satan is very cunning and always wants to overstate the mistakes of our spouse just to focus on it all the time and not to notice the wonderful person you are living with. He wants you to forget to give thanks for him/her but God's will is to give thanks for everything at all times, and He wants you to start giving thanks for your spouse every day, because it's a wonderful privilege to have a person with whom you can live your entire life and walk on this common narrow path together. And it is very important that we do not believe in the lies of Satan. And I started by saying that God doesn't always bring salvation the way we think. Think about, for example, the story of Joseph in the Old Testament. Jacob, his father was completely depressed,

completely desperate when his brothers came home to him and said that his favorite son was torn apart by a beast: Jacob, the father was completely desperate because he could not see the whole picture.

We have to believe that God is never wrong and God sees the whole picture, we only see a small piece of our lives and many times we don't understand why He allows certain things in our lives. That is exactly the point when we need faith to believe that God can bring good out of it. And it happened many years later, that it was revealed how God had brought deliverance, that Joseph was not torn apart by the beasts, but that the brothers lied and he was taken into slavery in Egypt, from where God raised him up, and through him He was able to save his whole family. But if we focus only on the place where we are in at this very moment and we are not able to see in faith and cling to God in faith and say "You know, God!", then we may step off from the path because of unbelief. And we say, "Oh, we were disappointed by God!" We must believe that God does everything in our lives for a reason and allows everything in it with a reason. And the good question is not: "Why did you allow it?", but: "God, what do you want to teach me by this?" And those who endure the test will receive a crown. Only the faithful receive a crown, says the book of Revelation. And it is very important that we persevere in these difficult times, Jesus also said, "*Perhaps I should not take the cup which my Father had given me?*" And he drank the cup, and the Bible says, "*Let us take up our cross daily,*" and it is not a matter of always choosing the easier path and fleeing from the problems, but facing the problems, taking up the cross, trusting in God and we will see His deliverance!

GÁBOR: Exactly. And those times when things like this happen to us are not easy, and in fact when we are in it, we feel overwhelmed, and perhaps feelings of depression or other mental illnesses may intensify within us. In the last few days, such things have happened to me, as I said, such difficulties are happening to us. Unfortunately we do not have enough time to tell you what diseases and attacks there are in our lives, but please accept now our testimony that it is always the Word of God, and God's Holy Spirit that helped us and pulled us out of the situation we were in.

To finish, I would like to read you another verse, verse 15 of Psalm 49: "*But God will redeem me from the realm of the dead; he will surely take me to himself.*" So many times we can feel that the power of evil, of hell is almost seizing us, we are already surrounded by hell, and unfortunately we are facing such times as we said at the beginning, but we must always trust that the redeeming power of God will deliver us, redeem us. He has already done this in Jesus Christ, and therefore we can be assured that no matter what difficulties surround us, nothing can tear us away from the love of God that is actually within us through Jesus Christ. And He is the one who will save us, He is the one who will seize us. No matter how hell seizes us, no matter how much our lives are captured by Covid, the economic hardships, etc., we are winners! And this can always be confirmed in our hearts by the Word of God and by the Holy Spirit of God. It is important for us as a couple to read the Word together, pray together and trust in God's promises!

ETELKA: Yes, the word of God also says, "*Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.*" And that is why it is extremely important that now, in the last days, we bind ourselves to the word of God. There are a lot of voices around us, lots of information, but they change from day to day. But the word of God is absolute truth. You can be absolutely sure that God's word will not change. The Bible says, "*until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.*" for Jesus Christ himself is the Word, and the Word lives, the Word speaks to you. Do not let Satan get the Word out of your hand, because the Bible says about the Word that it is the sword. And you will be defenseless if you do not cling to the Word of God, and you must feed yourself from it every day, for Jesus says, "*He*

lives not only with bread, but with every Word of God that comes from His mouth." And be in good hope, and it is a good news that there is a solid rock, a solid ground under our feet, and it is the Word of God. And if you take root in it, big waves can come, big winds can come, you'll be still solid as a rock. You can be like Mount Zion, which does not shake. And this is what we wish you and ourselves: to be solid and to be grateful. Let us not run out of thanksgiving from our mouths, and rejoice greatly in your spouse, and use every day to tell him that I am very happy for you, and I am very happy to live with you!

GÁBOR: I am also very happy for you Etelka! And with that, we're going to say goodbye now. We want to end with prayer:

We thank You God for the couples who are here to attend this conference. We ask you God to strengthen us all in these difficult times, whether in our personal lives, in our marriage, or in the storms of worldly events and storms that surround us. Thank you that you are our rock and with you we are victorious, Lord. Teach us, Lord, to live in the Word, to live by the Word. Teach us to pray, teach us to be able to move together and act together as a couple, and to be able to speak together, with one heart and one soul. Amen!

ETELKA: My God I also thank You for everyone who attends this conference. Please bless the marriage and life of each of us. Help us to have gratefulness in our hearts at all times. Help us to be led by your Word and not by the visible things. Thank you God that that invisible things are the true reality that does not ever pass away! Thank you God for that! Thank you for speaking to us and to confirm to us that your love has not changed for us. Glory to you for that, Lord! And we ask that you make us strong, fill us with your precious Spirit every day, that we may have the strength to fight every day and close each day as a winner. We want to live for your glory, our God, and we want to be blessings in this world. Please bless all of us Lord in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen!

GÁBOR: Thank you for your attention!

ETELKA: God bless you!

GÁBOR: God bless you!