

Shipwrecked! - Sunday Morning, August 7, 2016

Greg Laurie "Louis Zamperini LA Harvest" Interview

Video: <https://youtu.be/xh4MoUkwnE>

Louis Silvie "Louie" Zamperini (January 26, 1917 – July 2, 2014) was a US prisoner of war survivor in World War II, a Christian evangelist and an Olympic distance runner.

Zamperini took up running in high school and qualified for the US in the 5000m race for the 1936 Berlin Olympics. He finished 8th in the event. In 1941 he was commissioned into the United States Army Air Forces as a Lieutenant. He served as a bombardier in B-24 Liberators in the Pacific. On a search and rescue mission, mechanical difficulties forced Zamperini's plane to crash in the ocean. After drifting at sea for 47 days, he landed on the Japanese occupied Marshall Islands and was captured. He was taken to a prison camp in Japan where he was tortured. Following the war he initially struggled to overcome his ordeal. Later he became a Christian Evangelist with a strong belief in forgiveness.

Zamperini is the subject of two biographical films, the 2014 Unbroken and the 2015 Captured by Grace .

Zamperini's drifting at sea and tortured imprisonment were a spiritual and physical time of darkness. It wasn't a darkness he brought on, but one that God allowed for a purpose. Later when he dealt with this darkness through alcoholism and marital problems his state of darkness was brought on by his own decisions. He became spiritually shipwrecked. Although he physically came back a hero from his shipwrecked life at sea and in the Japanese Prison, he still needed to gain victory from his spiritually shipwrecked life.

We need to recognize that darkness always comes before God reveals His Light and Glory!

Examples:

Mt. Sinai covered in darkness while God spoke to Moses. Victory came when God's Light revealed the Ten Commandments.

Egypt was covered in darkness during the final plague. Victory came in God's Light in the morning when the people of Israel were allowed to go free.

For 3 hours there was darkness over the land when Jesus was crucified. Victory came when Jesus paid the sin debt and provided a way of salvation for mankind and was resurrected in the Light of the Third day's morning.

These Biblical accounts of darkness illustrate a sense of despair, followed by God's Light bringing hope and new life. Likewise, spiritual darkness brings despair. Our lives can feel like they are shipwrecked and we have no hope of surviving.

First, when feel like we are in darkness or shipwrecked, we need to recognize the origin:

- 1) Shipwrecked by our own decision(s) or self-imposed
- 2) Shipwrecked by allowed by God for His purpose(s).

Let's start with a look at the self-imposed shipwreck:

(I Timothy 1: 18 – 19)

18 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,

19 having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck,

- ✚ Christians are automatically placed into spiritual warfare when they receive Christ into their lives.
- ✚ Christians must adhere to the Truth of God's Word, lest they become spiritually disorientated, being spiritually shipwrecked.
- ✚ Losing a good conscience with God makes Christians shipwrecked of faith. Consciousness of unconfessed and unforgiven sin squelches faith.
- ✚ Good conscience with God is an anchor of faith.
- ✚ Intentionally rejecting the effect of God's Word in our lives, in order to hold on to sin makes one spiritually shipwrecked – living without faith.

Our lives are like a ship. We can either follow the navigation the Lord puts before us, or we can intentionally and forcefully reject God's direction for our lives and become disorientated and spiritually shipwrecked.

Now, let's look at the shipwreck that is allowed by God for His purposes.

(II Corinthians 11: 25 – 26)

25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;

26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

The Apostle Paul was shipwrecked physically three times. He spent a night and day in the sea. He was in perils in the deep.

Being shipwrecked in our lives is having life in chaos without apparent hope.

- ✚ Shipwrecked situations are loney.
- ✚ "a night" – no vision or clarity.
- ✚ "a day" – time of reflection
- ✚ A period of time in the midst of peril, dangerous situation.

God uses these situations that were not brought on by us to:

- ✚ Teach us to accept the challenge of faith in God's provision and direction.
- ✚ Teach us to trust God when we don't understand.
- ✚ Teach us to have faith that God will give us grace that will give us hope.
- ✚ Teach us to trust God's plan.

What must we do to get through shipwreck situations?

For a shipwreck that is self-imposed:

(I John 1:9)

If we **confess** our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Revelation 3:19)

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and **repent**.

We must confess and repent.

For a shipwreck that is allowed by God for His purpose:

(Proverbs 3: 5 – 6)

5 **Trust** in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.

(Proverbs 16:3)

Commit your works to the Lord,
And your thoughts will be established.

(Psalm 37:5)

Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him,
And He shall bring it to pass.

(I Peter 5: 6 – 7)

6 Therefore **humble** yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

We must trust God, commit ourselves to God and humble or submit to God.

Shipwrecked situations in our lives, whether self-imposed or allowed by God are dark and dangerous times, that require a commitment of faith in God to see Victory brought about in His Light!

Invitation & Lord's Supper

As Christians we have been sealed in the blood of Christ and are a part of a new covenant with the Lord. The Lord's Supper is a reminder of the incredible cost to God for us to enter into the new covenant. We need to examine ourselves, because if one member of the body is out of fellowship with God, it affects the whole body. That is the nature of this new covenant that we remember today. This is our opportunity to examine our relationship with Christ and to be restored to the blessings of a covenant relationship. Through a revived people, God can make an impact in our church, our community, our state, our nation and the world.

(Matthew 26: 26 – 29)

²⁶ And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

²⁷ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.

²⁸ For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

²⁹ But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." 6