

# **IN TIMES LIKE THESE**

## **Part 1: When The Storm Clouds Gather**

### **IT'S NOT JUST THE STORM - IT'S THE FEAR** (*Proverbs 12:25 NASB*)

- ❖ **The effects of anxiety**
  - ◆ The rise of depression and destructive behavior
  - ◆ Relationship problems
  - ◆ Reduced productivity
- ❖ **Anxiety does not have to have the last word**
  - ◆ You can't control everything around you, but you can control what you let in you.
  - ◆ It's possible to be an up person in a down world (*Proverbs 15:15 NLT*)

### **A MAN WHO FACED A MAJOR STORM** (*2 Chronicles 32:1-8 NKJV*)

- ❖ **He got stronger**
  - ◆ Hezekiah was realistic about what he was facing
  - ◆ He cut off the water supply - determined not to help the enemy
  - ◆ He took courage and moved into action
- ❖ **He strengthened the people - with his words**
  - ◆ Encouraged them to resist fear
  - ◆ Gave them reasons to be encouraged
- ❖ **He prayed when the pressure increased** (*2 Chronicles 32:17-21 NKJV*)
  - ◆ Sennacherib launched a major attack of psyche warfare - primarily to induce fear
  - ◆ Hezekiah got some prayer help

### **POSITIVE POSSIBILITIES AVAILABLE TO YOU WHEN STORM CLOUDS GATHER**

- ❖ **It's possible for you to get stronger**
  - ◆ You will have to face the challenge - but remember you are not alone
  - ◆ Reduce the things in your life that can hurt you or slow you down (*2 Peter 2:8 NLT*)
  - ◆ Take a step of courage and build yourself spiritually
- ❖ **It's possible for you to use your words strategically**
  - ◆ Don't talk fear - if words can strengthen then words can weaken
  - ◆ Talk like one who believes in a great God (*2 Corinthians 5:7 NLT*)
- ❖ **It's possible for you to pray effectively**
  - ◆ Hezekiah was a servant and a king
  - ◆ If you think you don't know how to pray that's what we're here for
  - ◆ Praying is a better way to face the pressure storms can bring (*Philippians 4:6-7 NIV*)