

Conflicts and Crises

April 2014

THE INSIDE RUNNING

Conflicts and crises – something all of us experience to some degree. Gary and Ivan have made brilliant contributions to this topic and I have been enriched by reviewing them. There are good points about issues we create and those that are outside our control.

I have always tended to be forthright and when I get over-excited this causes problems. It has led me to getting good at apologising to people! Now I can see patterns and recognise signals that mean I need to stop and take a breath if I want to avoid another apology!

In our closest relationships, this can be the most difficult to overcome. If we don't want to make the same mistakes again, then we need to recognise when we are getting pulled in at the top of the vortex of conflict and make different choices to the usual ones.

To minimise conflict I like to communicate clearly early on about expectations so that there are no misunderstandings. Sometimes that takes real initiative to create a proper foundation rather than passively letting things drift on towards disaster.

May you enjoy more peace and joy in all your situations.

With gratitude



John Subritzky

by Gary Colville

Whether it is at work, home, at leisure, within ourselves, or in our relationships, a crisis has the power to leave us feeling disempowered, defeated and even destroyed. Crises will always be a part of most of our lives, however lots of people are entrapped by the cycle of yet another crisis that adds to the pile and brings a sense of despair or defeat.

There are three primary types of crisis: **unexpected, self-inflicted and prolonged situations.** An unexpected crisis has shock impact, particularly when things happen that we have no control over, like loss through death, physical disability, loss of a job, betrayal, etc.

I have experienced unexpected crises on numerous occasions. Twice, gangs have attacked me. The last time they tried to kill me but fortunately I had allowed God to reshape my responses. Betrayal has been the hardest form of crisis for me, as I have never understood Christians who treat others badly.

Crises caused by our own poor character, mistakes or choices sometimes have serious long-term impact because of the lack of awareness or unwillingness many

of us have to face up to issues in our lives. Denial, fear, anger, distrust, embitterment, and other such-like issues are a breeding ground for creating crises or perpetuating the ongoing negative effects of a crisis. When we deal with our character issues, then we tend to face crises very differently and tend not to be impacted as negatively.

Crises in my childhood life made me shy, withdrawn and socially disconnected. Unfortunately, I knew how to use my mouth when others were doing me wrong, but that only compounded the issues because my reaction tended to bring others' insecurities to the surface, which in turn often created even more crises. The outcome of my becoming a follower of Jesus meant that my character had to be reshaped. I had to learn to respond very differently. This made a huge difference over time to my relationships with others.

The reality is that crises, if not processed well, or if we are unwilling to have our character and reactions reshaped, can leave us feeling deeply traumatised. They can end up dominating and controlling our lives to the extent that we are disempowered and therefore





unable to become the great person God intended us to be.

You see, understanding who we are in Christ and how to respond to crises is really the key to raising or lowering its impact on us.

I find sitting down and reflecting in writing or talking and praying with someone I trust is most helpful in dealing with a crisis.

Process When Facing a Crisis

Stop: Pressure is often the source of bad decisions.

Ask: Am I allowing crisis pressure to control my responses? In God's vast eternal plan does this issue really matter?

In 99 percent of situations we may feel pressured because of some crisis. No matter how big a crisis may be to us, God is still all-powerful and "able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (Eph 3:20), therefore I can trust Him in all situations and allow Him to reshape my responses.

Process: What is the best response I should make?

The Bible has the amazing ability to bring perspective in a way we don't naturally lean towards. James says something that contradicts popular thinking on dealing with crises, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds." (James 1:2) It's not about ignoring the crisis but about robbing crisis of its power to control our lives.

In verse 4, James develops the thinking around this idea of our need to persevere "so that you will become mature and complete". In that context we can take the words of our Lord from Isaiah 41:10, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you."

Many men come to Promise Keepers because they are at crisis point. That's a great reason to come and experience God's power in your life, but you don't have to wait for a crisis! Come anyway!

What's on the DVD



FEATURED SPEAKER: Ivan Bezzant - Negotiating Obstacles

Ivan's leadership experience in the Salvation Army and his ability to help resolve conflict make this message very powerful. Taking it on board can help minimise conflict in your life. 20 min

PANEL: Negotiating Obstacles – Leaders share their experience and wisdom in dealing with conflict. 16 min 30

DRAMA: Conflict 4 min

BONUS FEATURES:

- **My Story: Gary Colville** - How Gary journeyed from a difficult family situation to finding his identity in Christ and how this affected his work and life. 15 min 45
- **PK Music** - Family Prayer Song 3 min 35
- **Pastor's Perspective on Porn** - How porn affects the men in this pastor's church. 2 min 40
- **Partnership Churches** - Has your church signed up this year? The benefits of working with Promise Keepers to reach more men. 3 min 30
- **Pure Power 2014 Event Promo** - Launch 1 min 40

HUMOUR CLIPS: Exploding gas tanks in crash; Car salesman gets pranked. 7 min 10

BETTER WORK STORIES: This is Why We Fly - Incredible pilot's eye view of flying into Queenstown down through a cloud layer. (See article in extra resources about the technology that allows this to happen.) 4 min

DVD EXTRA RESOURCES: Access these using Windows Explorer (PC) or Command F (Mac)

ARTICLES: Including *Jesse Ryan Loskarn's Last Message*; Covenant Eyes Blog - *Your Resolution to Quit Porn*; Derek Prince - *God's Abundance: People - the Purpose of Abundance*; Francis Frangipane - *Remember Job, Becoming a People of Mercy*; Kevin Forlong - *Good Communication, Focus on Relationships Not Results*; Nikki Bray - *Healthy Conflict, Forgiveness*; Ian Buckley - *How to Confront a Crisis, Defusing Your Anger at Work*; Better Work Stories - *This is Why We Fly, Queenstown - No Room for Error*

RESOURCES: Including Bill Subritzky's booklet *The Holy Spirit*; Weekly Studies for Men's Groups with Facilitator Guidelines; *The Call* 2013 AKL Event Photos; Men's PK Stories *The Call* 2013 CHC; *Pure Power* 2014 Event Advance Brochure; *Pure Power* 2014 Group Leaders' Resources; Ivan Bezzant - *Negotiating Obstacles Study Questions & PowerPoint*; Tom O'Neil - *Stance Blogs Feb & Mar*; Bible Reading Plans

MP3s: Including **PKNZ Classics:** Tim Sisarich - *Beyond the Call of Duty* 32 min; Graham Walshe - *Drifting* 38 min; **PK Canada:** Mark Buchanan - *Courageous Faith* 44 min; **PK Canada Classic:** Steve Farrar - *Preparing for Battle* 44 min; Derek Prince - *Titles of Jesus* 107 min; Kenny Luck - *The Turning Hour Pt 2* 30 min

DEATH BY PORN

PROMISE
#6

A Promise Keeper is committed to reaching beyond any racial and denominational barriers to demonstrate the power of biblical unity.

Next Issue:
FINANCE

pure
POWER

The thunder of His power who can understand? Job 26:14

Men's Events 2014 - REGISTER NOW!

CHRISTCHURCH 22-23 August

WELLINGTON 12-13 September

AUCKLAND 3-4 October

Reach your goals in God's power