**God Prepares Us (Acts 11:27-30)**

 When difficulties arise during our life journey, God has already prepared solutions for them. Today I’m going to speak about God’s *modus operandi*. Very often, things happen during our lives that shake us up and could put us in very difficult situations. Despite the reality of these types of events, God prepares and uses special means to resolve those major life issues. Therefore, today, we’re going to be talking about the way God plans things, especially by using his messengers. Once again, I am saying that when difficulties arise during life, God has already prepared solutions for them. Let’s talk about those means of preparation, then…

 God prepares all of us for life’s ups and downs through the gifts that He has given us. It is a given that this life has ups and downs. What role do God’s gifts play in answering life’s problems? (We’re going to answer that question now.) As we read just a little bit ago, believers travelled from Jerusalem to Antioch. These were prophets, filled with the Holy Spirit, whose relationship with the Lord was solid. Yes, this reality means that prophets can exist after Jesus’ times, but for the purpose of establishing and reiterating God’s Word, and not to add to the Bible. Out of these prophets, Agabus said to the congregation that a great famine was coming upon their known world. As we read, we see that the famine took place exactly as predicted.

 When a believer uses their gift in the church, it becomes a great blessing or instruction for the members. In this case, it was a true prophet who declared the word, since what he predicted took place exactly as he said. Thus, God prepared the people for a major trial through a gift that He had given to one of His children.

 Today it is possible to think of other examples of gifts which can be used similarly among the people of the Lord and especially for His great plan. For example, if someone has a special gift related to construction, the Lord can used them for building homes for the needy. If someone has a particular zeal for prayer and the power is evident in them and they receive and perceive answers frequently, God can use them in a special prayer ministry. If one has a gift of teaching or preaching, cooking, or maybe languages, or if they are gifted in knowledge of spiritual matters, God can use them to help the other members grow in the Lord. When God’s gifts are used, members are enlightened, strengthened in faith, healed in body and spirit, given clarity of life-direction, increased in wisdom, and, as we read, prepared for or saved from danger.

 Dear brothers and sisters, God has not left us without gifts. He has given us a way to be victorious or to get through every difficulty that we face. God has given us enough grace to live this life through. It is up to us to recognize those gifts and to use them. If God has given a gift of bearing witness, come and let us talk about those testimonies. If He has given you the ability to organize finances, come and let us serve together so that the Lord’s Church may be safe in that regard. If God has given you gifts to help, to teach, or a desire to pray, examine yourselves to see which one you can use for the betterment of the church? Let us remember that each gift has its proper place, and every age has its unique gifts that have mature through our walk in the Lord. May God give us the awareness to use His gifts, so that the church is ready both in good times and bad times.

 God prepares all of us for life’s ups and downs through the gifts that He has given us. When difficulties arise during our life journey, God has already prepared solutions for them. The Lord bless you all. Amen.