

## “*Spiritual Bailout*”

As I write this article, the U.S. Congress has approved a \$15 billion dollar bailout package to help three of the largest U.S. auto companies out of corporate collapse. This is just the latest in government assistance to companies that have been on the brink of going under. Several months ago, Congress approved a \$700 billion dollar bailout package to aid companies and industries that are struggling to keep doors open for business as a result of an ailing economy. The U.S. government, recognizing the urgency of the situation, stepped in and put \$700 billion dollars on the table earmarked to rescue and help resuscitate some of the most important companies and industries. Although many disagree with such a plan and would rather not give a lifeline to many of these companies, who by their own actions created such an economic upheaval in our country, most know that this bailout is the only way to avoid further disaster. A similar bailout strategy has also been implemented in some of the other countries around the world. All of this is being done to prevent the worse possible scenarios worldwide. Even at this very moment, there is great concern that situations will probably get worse before they get better. And so, the bailout talks will continue as well as further dialogue on more stimulus packages for Americans. There is no question, however, on how we got to a point where a bailout was needed. A number of significant factors including bad decisions and poor judgment on all levels, corporate greed, personal responsibility, blind ambition, little oversight and accountability, overextended credit, mismanagement of resources, red flags, were not only *not* recognized, but they were flat out run over. Of course, high debt has brought us to the need to provide a bailout if we are going to get through this without serious further economic and social chaos. At this point, most agree that if not for a bailout, the U.S. economy would be on a path to destruction. It is our government’s plan to help, rectify, restructure, and rejuvenate our economy. Isn’t it interesting that just as the U.S. government had to intercede with a bailout to save the U.S. economy, God has the same plan for you and I today? His bailout plan, however, is not to provide economic recovery but *spiritual recovery*.

God is the ultimate orchestrator and designer of the spiritual bailout plan. He knew that we would need such a plan. When you consider the similarities between the aforementioned factors that have led to such a need for a corporate bailout, and our own individual factors, it is easy to see why God provided such a plan for us. In His infinite wisdom, God saw that we would travel a path that would lead us to spiritual destruction. It is a path that all of us have traveled at one time or another and it is littered with bad decisions, poor judgment, immoral behavior, personal irresponsibility, greed, ambition, lack of accountability, haphazard use of our talents and resources, blown red flags, and an incredible amount of sin debt (sound familiar?). It is no surprise that we need a spiritual bailout plan! On our own, we have absolutely no chance of getting through without constantly creating further destructive and chaotic situations in our lives. God says that He wishes that “no one would perish (2 Peter 3:9) and that all would be saved”. In order to do that, He had to provide a spiritual bailout plan so that those who chose the plan would be saved. He knew that we would “all sin...and fall short” (Romans 3:23) and that “no one is righteous” enough (Roman 3:10-20) to save themselves, so He had to prepare a plan to save us from inevitable spiritual destruction. His plan was to send us His Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins so that we may have eternal life. His bailout plan was *His son*. So, that through Jesus we would have our sin debt paid in full and all our wrongs would be made right by the shedding of His blood on the cross. Jesus became for us the chance to be redeemed, rectified, restructured, rejuvenated, and regenerated! Hallelujah! God’s spiritual bailout plan was designed in

the beginning with simplicity. He said believe in my Son, and you shall be saved. (John 3:16) Unfortunately, however there are many who do not know that such a bailout plan exists for them. So, their future hope rests on menial, often insignificant, events. Even sadder, though, is one knowing that there is a spiritual bailout plan available that can guarantee the salvation of your soul and eternal life but yet opt not to take it. It is almost as if all the current companies, states, and industries who are challenged fiscally would say to the available government bailout, “no thanks, we’ll be fine”. That would be foolish and certainly seal their inevitable destructive fate.

It is unclear where our economy will go from here. No one can predict with any certainty. However, one thing is clear... our country is strong and resilient and will eventually bounce back. There will be many lessons learned from this difficult chapter in our country’s economic history. Unfortunately, it will be at the expense and hardship of countless. It is the earnest hope of many that this bailout will soften the financial blows and put us back on recovery soon. Distinctively different is God’s plan that does provide a guarantee for those who choose it. His bailout plan will bring about certain and immediate results. It has no prolonged time of recovery or repair. He promises a new start with a renewed mindset and a fresh new outlook on life, but most importantly the assurance that you will be saved. That’s something that no bailout plan will ever offer.

***By: Jesus Maymi***

© 2008 Empowered Life Ministries, Inc.