

CALAMITIES WILL COME!

One of the most important lessons I learned as an entrepreneur is that the market will go through cycles of boom and bust, and that there is no such thing as consistent growth because calamities will surely come! Calamities can come because of natural reasons but they can also come because of the foolishness of man.

Typhoons come to ravage our land almost 20 times in a year and the El Nino phenomena come in a cycle of 3 to 5 years. So bakit tayo nagugulat when these things happen? Diba we should just learn from the past so that we may be better prepared for the future.

In the same way, financial crisis comes every so often, but not just to this country but to all other nations in the world. Like natural calamities, they come in cycles. We experienced one in 1998 when the Asian Economy collapsed. Then another one came in 2008 when the global recession happened. So why are we surprised that we are experiencing another one 10 years after, in 2018. Diba we should have learned from the past so that we may respond better when they do come? Pero bakit some people feel we're doomed, na para bang wala nang pag-asa ang bansa natin? Mabuti na lang andyan si Dr. Alvin Ang (my favorite economist), to put things in the proper perspective.

As an entrepreneur I have learned to protect myself from calamities by saving a lot when times are good so that I can invest when times turn bad.

Am I concerned about the inflation and the drop in the stock market? A little, but not really. Why? Because I have seen these happen in the past and I believe in the resilience of the Filipinos. Though it is possible that the crisis may have been man-made, meaning some people in government and/or in business have made some wrong decisions, I believe that they are not stupid. So I trust that they will make the necessary adjustments to improve our situation.

But more than this, I believe that my God is in control and that He can cause all things to work together for good if we respond properly. Exodus 19:5-6 (ESV) says, "Now, therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine." He said if we are obedient He will bless us. Unfortunately, many Filipinos have been very disobedient, kaya feeling ko we have caused this crisis upon ourselves. People do not show respect to one another, they pray that the president will get sick, they encourage strife and division, and some do not even know how to obey simple rules on parking.

While I cannot influence everyone in the country, I hope I can influence you. I hope I can encourage you to be obedient to the Lord to the point of submitting to the authorities that He has established whether we like them or not. Why? Because He said so in Romans 13! If we obey, we give God all the reasons to bless our country because only He can provide the grace that we need.