

Hope in Uncertain Times by Nigel Coles

Part 9: Reboot – Hope springs up whenever we give it opportunity

Hello again and welcome to The Fuelcast and especially Hope in Uncertain Times. It's now almost impossible during this global pandemic, to calculate the loss, suffering and devastation people are experiencing - Christians, followers of Jesus Christ like you and me included. But in the midst of it all, Hope in the One, True, Living God is growing, and I invite you to become a carrier of God's hope to others.

My word today is re-boot.

What's been your biggest frustration during this Lockdown period? Forgive me, if this sounds trivial, but honestly, one of mine, I daren't admit publicly, has been with my computer! I've spent so many hours on AppleCare, I'm beginning to recognise some of them as personal friends!

My computer seemed to be running out of space, despite being relatively new. I discovered, what's called the "system", which is basically the operating system of the computer, plus various applications, was taking up 80% of the computer's capacity – guidelines suggest it should be no more than 10%.

To cut a very, very long story short and I have to say some good conversations, because most of the guys I spoke with were Irish and always great to talk with them, it was concluded my computer, needed a "clean install".

What that means is:

I copy and back up everything I need.

I unload everything – basically go back to as if starting up from new, although it's not new. Then and only then, I install only what I need going forwards.

What's that got to do with me or you, especially as those seeking to follow Jesus during this coronavirus pandemic?

Well basically, my computer resembled my attic before we moved after 16 years **and my life**. Mess, clutter, the accumulation of years of baggage just slows down, impacts effectiveness and eventually grinds to a halt.

What is the virus revealing to you, about your relationship with God and your growth as a disciple of Jesus Christ? One of things I've seen is time to reflect and where necessary, re-boot, or even have a complete clean install is a gift I need to accept and grab hold of with both hands.

"Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, 'We will not walk in it'. Jeremiah 6:16.

Like you, I've become involved in some of those conversations about what life will look like and where I'd like it to look different post Covid-19.

My sense is God has given me an opportunity. I've been working from home and had plenty to do, but I've not had 10-12 hours driving a week, so I've found the time to take some long walks and not having to drive to meet someone first thing, I've had more time to pray. In a spiritual sense I've had a clean install, which I believe means I'm more suited to carry the hope, everyone is looking for right now, to other people.

I doubt if there are many listening (or reading) who need to go right back to the beginning, to start all over again as a Christian, but I guess there are very few who don't have an aspect of your life where you wish you could do just that.

I've re-read several times, recently, the episode when Jesus called his first disciples and hearing these words again has reminded me the Lord offers me a clean install:

Mark 1:15 ***'The time has come, the kingdom of God has come near'*** – don't you think this period of time we're living through is like living in a thin place, where the distance between heaven and earth is just that: thin?

'Repent and believe the good news' – I did that for the first time over forty years ago, but I've done it many times since and just recently asked the Lord to help me see where in my life I need to see change, to change tack or direction from going one way, in order to walk differently going forwards, which is something of what that word means. Is there somewhere, some part of your life, you want to look different post Covid-19? My experience of life tells me I need to pay attention to my need of change today and not wait until tomorrow.

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

Come follow me. Three simple words. They apply to everything. They are all embracing. I don't have time to tell you what specifically that's meant in my life for me, but that doesn't matter. What does matter is I open my heart to God afresh.

Here's the thing, whatever your situation right now, it may be God is whispering in your ear too **re-boot** – grab the opportunity. And if you need to do more than re-boot your old system: Go for a clean install. Ask for the ancient paths, as Jeremiah puts it, because the glittering new ones will fail you, but Jesus promises life in all its fulness. That's a promise, not a vain hope.

To watch the video, go to: <https://www.thefuelcast.com/>

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