



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

The Prison of His Perseverance – Part 1

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A lot of characters in the Bible were imprisoned like St. Paul and St. Peter. The Lord does not want us to be in prison. He wants us to be free. It was why He died on the cross.

Reflection: Are we free? When God calls us, are we free to immediately respond?

Though we are not in prison, there are so many bars of sin surrounding us, because we still have unconfessed sins. So, we are still not free to follow the Lord.

The Lord has an assignment for us and He is determined that we carry it out. He will persistently pursue us and patiently work in our life until He brings us to a place where He can use us for the task.

If necessary, like Jonah, He will send us into a prison experience to get our attention and gain our cooperation.

God sent Jonah to an unusual prison. But then, it was in this strange prison that Jonah was convinced that God's plan was the right plan.

The Prison of His Perseverance

I. The Road to His Prison

A. It is a road of disobedience.

- When we disobey God, we are led to a prison.
- The road of disobedience will always draw us away from God.
- Sin will lead to death (Rom. 6:23).
- God told Jonah to go and warn the city of Nineveh, but Jonah refused (Jonah 1:1-3).
- Jonah hated the people of Nineveh.
- Why did Jonah possess such a deep hatred for the people of Nineveh?
- In the Bible, the Assyrians invaded Israel. They took all that the Israelites had until nothing was left, forcing God's people to eat their children.
- The Ninevehites were idol worshippers. Known for their cruelty, whole cities were known to commit suicide rather than fall into their hands.

- Jonah thought that he could escape from God by running away. But, it is not possible to hide from God (Ps. 139:7-10).
- Don't we think the same way as Jonah from time to time? We do not mind serving the Lord when it is convenient, but when He tells us to do something we do not want, we rebel and disobey Him.
- We should not divert from the direction that the Lord wants us to take. When the Lord saved us, He took total possession of us (1 Cor. 6:19-20).
- When He gives you an assignment, all He wants to hear from your mouth is, "Here am I. Send me!" Anything less is disobedience and rebellion. (Rev 3:19)

Has God been speaking to your heart about something He wants you to do? Are you obeying His voice or are you going against God's will for your life? He is the only one who knows His plans for you; who has consecrated you and who he has a purpose for you.

When the Lord assigns us to do something, may we be free to say to Him, "Lord, here I am. I am free you. Do as what you want to do. Let it be done to me according to your Word."

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