

"In the beginning
was the Word,
and the Word was
with God, and the
Word was God."
—John 1:1

The Lord's Flock
Growth
DIGEST
PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES



“VICTORY IN ADVERSITY”

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May 22, 2013

Introduction:

Life is full of ups and downs.

God never promised that we would live a problem-free life. In reality, we all experience problems – financial crisis, illness, and even death in the family. The good news is that we can defeat these problems.

When we face trials, we have the word of God to guide us:

“Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials.” (James 1:2).

“In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials.” (1 Peter 1:6).

Let us not allow problems and trials to bring us down.

How To Attain Victory In Adversity

1. Maintain a Positive Attitude

- The Holy Bible teaches that when problems occur in our life, we should rejoice and maintain a good attitude. (James 1:2 and 1 Peter 1:6).

- What the Bible teaches about our afflictions is positive. “Not only that,

but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope.” (Romans 5:3-4).

- The Greek word for rejoice literally means “to glory in”. Why should we glory in our afflictions and sufferings? Because suffering produces patience, character, and hope. It makes us better people – not bitter people.

- Something good comes out of our pain. There is always light at the end of a tunnel.

2. Live One Day at a Time

We should live one day at a time and should not worry about our past and about our tomorrow.

- Forget our past mistakes.

- “Brothers, I for my part do not consider myself to have taken possession. Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God’s upward calling, in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:13-14)

- “Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil.” (Matthew 6:34).

3. Look for Values in Adversity

We should look for values in our adversity. God uses adversities and problems in our lives for our own good in the following ways:

A. Giving Us New Direction

- “Evil is cleansed away by bloody lashes, and a scourging to the inmost being.” (Proverbs 20:30).
- “Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.” (Good News Bible).
- Problems can give us a new direction to take. Next time we experience a problem, let us ask ourselves: “Is God trying to tell me something? Does He want me to change my direction?”

B. Protecting Us Through Problems

- When we experience a problem, it is possible that God is protecting us from something bad that we do not see.
- The best biblical example is the story of Joseph and his family whom God protected from destruction. “Even though you meant harm to me, God meant it for good, to achieve this present end, the survival of many people.” (Genesis 50:20).
- Many problems are actually blessings in disguise.

C. Testing Us Through Problems

- God can use problems to test us. Let us pass His test by trusting in Him in order to be led where He wants us to go.
- The Israelites were tested by God when it took them forty years, instead of only two weeks, to travel from Egypt to the Promised Land in Israel.

D. Helping Us Grow Through Problems

- Problems help us grow.
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God uses problems to develop character in our lives. He is far more concerned with our character

development than our momentary comfort.

- God wants our problems and sufferings to make us Christ-like and good witnesses of the gospel.

4. Never Give Up

- Some people get so tired of dealing with life’s problem that they give up on life.
- No matter how bad our problems seem to be, we must never give up on life.

Conclusion:

If we want to be victorious in adversity, we must do the following:

1. Maintain a positive attitude.
2. Live one day at a time.
3. Look for values in adversity.
 - Adversity/problems giving us new direction;
 - Adversity/problems protecting us;
 - Adversity/problems testing us;
 - Adversity/problems helping us grow.
4. Never give up.

“We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28).

Thanks to: Sis. Lily Echiverri, *Printing Sponsor*