

"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



## "GOD'S WAYS"

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**"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord."** (Isaiah 55:8-9)

**Introduction:** All of us encounter trials in our life. Sometimes, we face these trials with our own ways. We depend on our own intelligence and our own methods. We rely in our own abilities and forget to seek the help of God.

**Our problems may appear big; our trials may seem formidable.** Let us never forget that God is always present to assist us; He is bigger than our problems. We might not immediately grasp how the Lord can help us overcome our obstacles. Let us remember that His ways are not our ways. His methods are different from ours. His power is infinite while ours is practically nothing.

### **Four Ways For Us To Be Victorious In Our Battles In Life**

**We can all be victorious in overcoming battles in our life.** Let us act according to the following ways:

#### **1. Remembering who is in command**

**As Christians, we always have battles to fight against our three enemies: the flesh, the world, and the devil.** Satan is always watching us like a roaring lion that is ready to devour us (1 Peter 5:8). As followers of Jesus, Satan and his demons

have marked us and targeted us for possible conquest.

**Our first step in winning the war against our enemies is to remember that we are on God's side and the Lord is in command.** "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31). Let us trust our commander-in-chief that He will lead us to victory. It is imperative that we obey everything our commander is asking us to do. We should be obedient 100% without making any exception.

#### **2. Trusting that God's ways are always right**

**The Israelites won the battle for Jericho after following God's ways of fighting.** His instructions were strange and different from the usual military offensive tactics. Yet, Joshua and his people trusted the Lord and obeyed His commands.

**The Book of Joshua, Chapter 6, verses 3 to 9 is a detailed account of God's unusual instructions and how Joshua and the Israelites followed them faithfully.** It is true that God's

ways are unusual and His instructions are complicated and difficult to understand. Why is this so?

**God is making it clear that the result of our battle will depend upon Him and not**

**upon our own expertise and weapons.** Moreover, God wants to test our faith and our obedience.

**At Jericho, the obedience of Joshua and his people was tested by God.** Abraham was also tested of his faith in the offering of his son, Isaac (Genesis 22:1-19). Many other biblical characters passed God's testings by strictly obeying His instructions.

**When we trust and follow the ways of God, we shall be used as His instruments.** With His infinite power, He will show us signs and wonders. His ways always produce miracles.

### **3. Being quiet listening to God**

**Through God's instructions, we know His ways and plans.** It is essential that we listen carefully to what the Lord is commanding us. The best way to completely understand His instructions is by being quiet during our prayer time. Let us not miss any portion of His pronouncements.

Joshua himself was quiet in listening to God's instructions in order to get all details. Let us patiently listen to God's messages and we will learn more about God's ways.

### **4. Persevering and not quitting**

**Problems and trials sometimes prevent us from going to our**

**Community and participating in our activities.** The trials are happening to us for a good purpose and according to God's ways of humbling us, pruning us, and reforming us.

**When we face testings, we also gain experience so that when it is our turn to comfort others who might be undergoing their own trials and facing serious problems, then we can share our**

**own experience in being victorious in passing the testings.**

**We should persevere, not give up, and not quit the struggle.** We should remember that our own methods are not good enough. We should have faith that only with God's ways can we face our problems and trials, leave failures behind, and move forward in our journey in life.

**If we have complete faith in the ways of God, we should not worry at all.** *"Cast all your worries upon him because he cares for you."* (1 Peter 5:7). Let us not have any anxiety. *"Have no anxiety at all but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God."* (Philippians 4:6).

**Conclusion: In the spiritual battles that we face against the flesh, the world, and the devil, let us fight not according to our ways but according to God's ways. Let us wage the war not with human weapons but with God's sword and power.**

**Let us remember that it is the Almighty God who is in command. He is in total control. Let us have complete trust in His perfect methods. Let us spend quiet time listening to Him and understanding His instructions. Let us persevere in our prayers and our struggle. If we do not quit and if we have steadfast faith in God's ways, we shall be victorious in all our battles in life.**

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