

GOD IN TIMES OF DIFFICULTIES

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic
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Difficulties include all kinds of trials, which are the bumps and road blocks to our smooth life journey. When difficult times come, when we are gripped with fear and hopelessness, our response is to seek instant relief and immediate response. God has always wanted us to be overcomers, to overcome life's difficulties. His plan is to prosper us and not to harm us; rather, to give us hope and a future (Jer.29:11). Trials make us depend on God, for He is greater than we think. Therefore, we must shift our focus to a God who offers us supernatural peace.

Things to Remember in Times of Difficulties.

1. Focus on GOD'S MAJESTY, more than our circumstances. God is greater than we think.

1.1. God is **SOVEREIGN**. He is the supreme authority in all the universe. All things come from Him (Jer.32:17).

1.2. God is **OMNIPOTENT**. He is all powerful; He created the universe out of nothing. There is nothing outside of His ability to accomplish; no one can exercise power over Him. He says, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you (Isa.43:1).

1.3 God is **OMNISCIENT**. He is an all knowing God who is above and beyond all of His creations. He is aware of the past, present and future. He sees all things together with infinite awareness, understanding and insights.

1.4. God is **OMNIPRESENT**. He exists beyond our time, space and reality. He is present everywhere. God loves us more than we know. He is faithful and keeps His promises (Jer.31:3; Heb.10:23). If we are sick, He restores us to health (Jer 30:17; Ex.15:26). If we are broken-hearted, He heals and binds our wounds (Psalm 147:3).

2. Focus on GOD'S FAITHFULNESS, instead of our resources. God is dependable.

2.1. God is pleased when we trust Him, when we rely on His faithfulness. Faith is confidence in what we hope for, and the assurance about what we do not see. Faith pleases God. He rewards those who seek Him (Heb.11:5&6).

2.2. God never wants us to be alone when we have problems. He stays with us every minute of our journey. When two or three are gathered in His name, He is in their midst (Mt.18:20).
2.3. Trust God. He has not forgotten us. He listens and desires a closer relationship with us. When we feel hopeless, let us lean on Him. He provides us with love, strength and encouragement. He will never forsake us (Deut.31:8).

3. Focus on TODAY'S BLESSINGS rather than tomorrow. God has blessed us today.

3.1. God is at work in our lives every day. He taught us to pray the "Our Father" to remind us not to worry about our life, about what to eat or drink and what to wear (Mt.6:25-27).

3.2. A joyful heart is life itself. Rejoicing lengthens our life span. Thus, let us indulge ourselves. Jealousy and anger shorten our life and anxiety bring premature old age (Sir.30:22-24).

4. Focus on the NEXT STEP, instead of trying to predict the future. God guides our steps. Walk with faith and take one step at a time in the direction God is leading us (Prov.16:9).

5. Focus on GOD'S SUPERNATURAL PRESENCE rather than on adversity. God offers supernatural power. God gave us the authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and all the powers of the enemies (Lk.10:19).

CONCLUSION:

To overcome life's difficulties, let us talk to God everyday. A closer personal relationship with Him allows the Holy Spirit to empower us with wisdom, power and resources. Let us live a life according to God's way. In claiming His promises, we shall experience God's best. Let us submit our will to His will.

REFLECTION:

1. What life difficulties are you experiencing?
2. What actions would you take to overcome your difficulties?

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