

# “God in Times of Difficulty”

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## THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

Man's life journey inevitably includes difficulties, trials, persecutions, and storms. Our problems may arise from different sources (finances, relationships etc.) and may come unexpectedly. They may be too much to bear, and we search for God to help. But He never leaves us and has set a good plan for us (Jer. 29:11) despite life's difficulties. We must shift our focus from life's challenges to God who loves us.

**1. Focus on God's majesty more than on our circumstances; God is greater than we think.** God is sovereign to His creations; He is all-powerful (omnipotent), all-knowing (omniscient), all-present (omnipresent). Our Lord's majestic traits give us confidence to trust Him (Heb. 10:23). We should worship His greatness and treasure our relationship with Him.

**2. Focus on God's faithfulness instead of on our resources; God is dependable.** Mankind trusts in things they see and feel. God sent the Holy Spirit to teach us to believe in God and His word. We must decide to follow God and depend on His provisions always. If we continue to do what God wants, we will achieve God's plans for us. Our faith fulfills this (Heb. 11:16). We must claim what God promised to Moses, "The LORD Himself will go before you; He will be with you. He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid or discouraged" (Deut. 31:8).

**3. Focus on today's blessings rather than worries about tomorrow; God has blessed us today.** In Matt. 6:25-27, Jesus tells us not to worry, for our worries do not even add to our lives. He wants us to focus on Him and not on our fears. We should count our blessings daily and be grateful. He wants us to be thankful always (1 Thess. 5:18). He is our provider (Phi. 4:19) and we can depend on Him (Ps. 34:9-10). God has a plan for each of us (Jer. 29:11) and requires us to give our lives to Him. To experience God's best plan,

there are 3 requisites:

- 3.1 Begin a personal relationship with God.
- 3.2 Be empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- 3.3 Live a life in God's way.

**4. Focus on the next step instead of predicting the future; God guides our steps.** We always wish to know our distant future, but God doesn't operate that way. We must trust God in every step like a baby holding his father's hand.

**God responds to prayer.** God will surely answer our prayers, but we must align our prayers with His. His answers are also done according to His time (Isa. 60:22) and not ours. He takes care of our sorrows and wants us to be still (Ex. 14:14).

**5. Focus on God's supernatural presence rather than our adversity; God offers supernatural power.** God instructs us to rely on the Holy Spirit to be above our present circumstances. God hears our pleas and pain; thus, we must turn to Him for

He will give us tremendous power to overcome them (Phil. 4:13) and give us spiritual power to serve Him (Eph. 3:20-21).

**God offers supernatural freedom.** Jesus, the truth, will set us free (Jn. 8:32). He will free us from Satan's deceptions and will come to give us life (Jn. 10:10).

**God offers supernatural peace.** Jesus' peace is not our natural peace; it goes beyond us and guards us despite calamities in life (Phil. 4:7). Focus our eyes on Jesus amidst the storm.

### Conclusion:

We have different journeys in this world, but God is walking with each of us. We experience life difficulties, but we must go through these to make us mature Christians. We must decide to cling to God and trust Him completely.

Reflection:

1. What keeps you from not trusting God?
3. What are your ways to keep God's peace in you?

Prayer: "Father God, thank you for being a God we can trust wholeheartedly without fear and reservation. In Jesus' name. Amen."