

MEANWHILE



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ACTS 12:24

Meanwhile, the word of God continued to spread,
and there were many new believers.

ACTS 12:1-5

It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. 2 He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. 3 When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread.



ACTS 12:1-5

4 After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover. 5 So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.





**JAMES IS
MARTYRED**

**PETER IS
DELIVERED**

OUR RESPONSE



2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

We live by faith, not by sight.



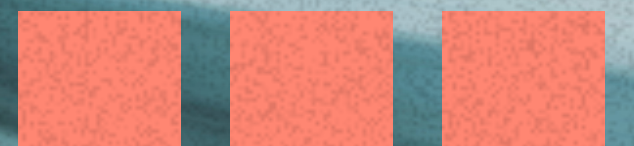
**FAITH IS REVEALED BY HOW WE
RESPOND WHEN GOD DOESN'T
DO WHAT WE EXPECTED.**

SŌZŌ

“to save, rescue,
deliver, preserve, or
make well.”

MEANWHILE
...

**THEY DID NOT
LOSE FAITH**



**IF THEY HAD LOST FAITH IN
GOD, THEY WOULD HAVE
STOPPED PRAYING.**

ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE



ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

- PSALM 116:15
- ROMANS 14:8
- HEBREWS 11:33-38



MARK 10:35-40

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came over and spoke to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do us a favor." 36 "What is your request?" he asked. 37 They replied, "When you sit on your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left."



MARK 10:35-40

38 But Jesus said to them, “You don’t know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink? Are you able to be baptized with the baptism of suffering I must be baptized with?”



MARK 10:35-40

39 “Oh yes,” they replied, “we are able!” Then Jesus told them, “You will indeed drink from my bitter cup and be baptized with my baptism of suffering.
40 But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. God has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen.”



1. Faithful people can still suffer
2. Suffering may occur because of your obedience to God
3. Prayer and faith do not guarantee the result you want
4. God's goodness cannot be defined by your suffering
5. Suffering does not mean God is absent

TEMPORAL VS. ETERNAL



REVELATION 2:10

Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. The devil will throw some of you into prison to test you. You will suffer for ten days. But if you remain faithful even when facing death, I will give you the crown of life.



DO NOT SURRENDER

TO SUFFERING!

ROMANS 8:35-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."



ROMANS 8:35-39

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,



ROMANS 8:35-39

39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day.
17 For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!



2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18

18 So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.



AM I FOLLOWING
JESUS AS MY
LORD *and* SAVIOR?

