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# Finding Courage in Tough Times

*Faith Fueled Actions For Tough Times*

**October 8, 2023**



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## The Truth Is:

- Life Is Not Always Easy
- Things Don't Always Make Sense

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## Realize: Everyone Has Problems

**John 16:33 (NIV)** 33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

**(James 1:2-4 NIV)** Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, (3) because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. (4) Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

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## Sign Up For The Long Haul

**(Luke 9:62 NIV)** "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

**Galatians 6:9 (NIV)** 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

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## Get Involved In Kingdom Life

Spending time with our King will fuel our faith & bolster our courage

Tough times lose their impact and significance when we are fully involved in the Kingdom

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## Stop Vacillating

**James 1:8 (NIV)** “A double minded man is unstable in all of his ways.”

***“Until you are fully committed to Christ, you are not being as productive for the Kingdom as you could be.”***

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## Tough Times Are

- *Times For Power*
- *Times For Love*
- *Times For A Sound Mind*
- The Lord Can (And Will) Give That To Us By Faith

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## Live By Faith & Facts Not By Feelings

■ Although faith involves belief, by far the most important characteristic of faith (in the biblical sense) is reliance, or trust... Christians are not only saved by faith, but they also live by faith.

*AMG Concise Bible Dictionary*

## Faith in God is relying wholly on Him

■ 2Corinthians 5:7 (KJV) “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

■ We need a faith that is unaffected by circumstances, feelings, health or relationships.



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**Stay Close To God/ Get Recharged**

**James 4:8 (NIV)** — 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you.

- *Choose This Day -- To Get Close To God!*

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## Don't Let The Sinful Nature (Flesh) Control You

**Romans 7:18 (NLT)** I know I am rotten through and through so far as my old sinful nature is concerned. No matter which way I turn, I can't make myself do right. I want to, but I can't.

The flesh is unable to please the goodness of God.

We need to keep saying “yes” to the Spirit and put the flesh in its proper place

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## Take Authority Over Sin And Satan

**(Eph 6:10-12 NIV)** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. (11) Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. (12) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

- Take your stand against the devil's evil schemes -- Use the tools and authority God has given us to fight this battle with
- ***We Have The Word Of God -- The Name Of Jesus -- The Power Of The Holy Spirit -- The Blood Of Jesus. -- We Are More Than Conquerors -- We Can Defeat Satan***

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## Fight Against Temptation

**1 Cor 10:13 (NIV)** "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."

## **God will give you a way out. Will you take it?**

- Is giving in to that temptation worth all the grief it can cause? No!!
- We fight temptation (not in our own strength) in and through Christ

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- **Realize That Everyone Has Problems**
- **Sign Up For The Long Haul**
- **Get Involved In Kingdom Life**
- **Stop Vacillating**
- **Conquer Fear By Power, Love, & Sound Mind**

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- **Live By Facts Not By Feelings**
- **Stay Close To God/ Get Spiritually Recharged**
- **Don't Let The Flesh Control You**
- **Take Authority Over Sin And Satan**
- **Fight Against Temptation**