



⁸Be on your guard and stay awake. Your enemy, the devil, is like a roaring lion, sneaking around to find someone to attack. ⁹But you must resist the devil and stay strong in your faith. You know that all over the world the Lord’s followers are suffering just as you are. ¹⁰But God shows undeserved kindness to everyone. That’s why he had Christ Jesus choose you to share in his eternal glory. You will suffer for a while, but God will make you complete, steady, strong, and firm.

¹¹God will be in control forever! Amen.”

1 Peter 5:8-11, CEV

Because God is in control, I can...

1. Trust God during the tough times.

Matthew 20:20-23; 1 Timothy 3:12

“...King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them.” (v. 1)

2. Recognize the opportunities in the impossible.

Matthew 20:20-23; 1 Timothy 3:12

²He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. ³When he saw that this pleased the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also.” (v. 2-3)

Tough times give me the opportunity to...



“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks



Acts 12:5, 12; Luke 15:16; Rom. 8:15-16; Matt. 21:21-22

“...The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.” James 5:16 (NLT)

3. Submit to God's solution.

Acts 12:2; Proverbs 3:5-6; Luke 22:42-44

“Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating.” v. 11

When we seek life's solutions outside of God's will, we...

- Commit to a second class reality.
Psalm 118:8
- Robs ourselves of peace.
Isaiah 26:3-4
- Reveals our love for the world rather than God.
Acts 12:3, 18-24; Daniel 3:16-18

4. Share with others what God has done.

1 Peter 5:8-11

“But the word of God continued to increase and spread.” Acts 12:24