

Theme: Remaining Faithful in Difficult Times | Topic: Where to Turn When Difficulties Come

Scripture Text: **Psalm 22:27**

A man that has no difficulties has not lived.

Jesus commands us to endure to the end, **Matt. 10:22**, and to remain faithful to the end, **Rev. 2:10**.

There are some days when this will be easy and some days that it will be harder – but it is never impossible!

In this lesson, we will examine **first** the fact that difficulties come, **second** study some Biblical examples, **thirdly** look at the song “Where Could I Go but to the Lord?” and **finally** answer the question “*What Does It Mean to Turn to the Lord?*”

I. When They Come

- A. When
 - 1. Defined: a) Adverb “at what time” | b) Conjunction: “after which, and just then (implying suddenness).” “He had just drifted off to sleep when the phone rang.”
 - 2. When means it is a guarantee. If means a possibility.
- B. **James 1:2-3** “when”
 - 1. When – we will face difficulties
 - 2. Attitude is important – increase patience by trying our faith
- C. **1 Peter 3:14-15** “but and if”
 - 1. But: Conjunction: change in thought, **Gen. 6:7 vs. 6:8**
 - 2. Attitude is important: we should be happy when we face difficulties
- D. **1 Peter 4:16** “suffer as a Christian”
 - 1. Last of 3 occurrences of “Christian” in New Testament (**Ac. 11:26, 26:28**).
 - 2. Attitude: use any persecution as a chance to glorify God – all for His glory!

II. Biblical Examples – just a few selected

- A. **Joshua 10:7-14** (Sun Standing Still)
 - 1. Joshua not able to win the battle as they were running out of sunlight!
 - 2. God allowed the sun to stop moving – rotation stopped, gravity shifted, all changed – miraculous

- B. **1 Kings 18:16-40** (Mt. Carmel)
 - 1. Servants of Baal and the groves tried for the better part of the day to have their gods consume their sacrifice.
 - 2. Elijah, with all the cards stacked against him, petitions God and God delivers!
- C. **Daniel 3:17-25** (SMA)
 - 1. Three 18-year-olds appear before the king and display their confidence in God! (*Could we be so bold at their age? Current age?*)
 - 2. God provides and they are unharmed.
- D. **Jonah 2:1-9** (In the Fish)
 - 1. Jonah does a lot of running (away from God, Ch. 1; with God, Ch. 3, and ahead of God, Ch. 4) and here he ends up in the belly of a God-prepared great fish!
 - 2. **V. 10** – after Jonah acknowledges His need for the Lord, he is delivered!

III. “Where Could I Go But to The Lord?”

- A. V. 1: no one can make it through this life alone. We must have help from the Lord.
- B. V. 2: friends are good; Christian friends are better (Rom. 16); help from the Lord is best!
- C. V. 3: from now to the very end – there is no better place to turn but to the Lord!
- D. Chorus: Jesus saves!

IV. “What Does It Mean to Turn to the Lord?”

- A. **Matthew 6:24** – not serve the fleeting things of the world
- B. **Matthew 16:24ff** – count the cost and carry the cross
- C. **2 Peter 3:18** – continue to grow – a Christian should never be content with his/her Biblical knowledge. (Bro. Boyd at 89/90/91; Chad Acts Commentary)
- D. **Luke 13:3-5** – repent of my sins

Thankfully, we as Christians have the best place to turn when life becomes difficult. Dear friend, please take advantage of this resource!

If you are not a Christian, you do not have this resource and you are forced to go through this life on your own. Dying with your sins and eternal damnation await you unless you change!

Respond, Remain Faithful, and use your Resource!

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