



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

“OLIVE OIL PRESS”

(Pressure Series, Part 4)

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Olive Oil Press refers to a place named Gethsemane where olives are pressed for oil. Our Lord Jesus Christ prayed in Gethsemane during the time of His passion, and it was where He faced severe pressure in following God's will. Knowing the different pressures of Jesus Christ in Gethsemane will help us understand ours and determine the best way/s to overcome them.

- 1. Jesus Christ predicted the betrayal from Judas and the denial from Peter.** In the account of the last supper, Jesus Christ told the apostles of the betrayal of one of them. He must have felt the pressure of revealing the betrayer among those He chose as part of the twelve apostles (John 13:18). Jesus Christ also revealed that Peter will deny him three times (John 13:38). The pain of betrayal and denial was imminent as it was a prophecy, but the pressure felt in revealing all these things to them was very real.
- 2. Jesus Christ's felt the pressures in the garden of Gethsemane.** In Gethsemane, Jesus felt his terrible sorrow to the point of death (Matt. 26:38). Though He knew about the falling away of His apostles as well as how He was going to die, He faced all of these painful predictions alone and struggled with the pressure. He was surrounded by His closest and trusted friends, but they could not even understand the events at the Last Supper. Jesus Christ asked for an hour in Gethsemane, but His apostles could not resist their sleep. The pressure felt by Jesus Christ in fulfilling the divine plan was tremendous.
 - 2.1.** Jesus faced the pressure of being alone.
 - 2.2.** Jesus faced pressure when He found the three disciples asleep.

- 2.3.** Jesus faced the pressure of suffering His agony alone.
- 2.4.** Jesus faced pressure when He found all his apostles in deep slumber (Matt. 26:45).
- 2.5.** Jesus faced pressure because all His apostles didn't understand these important events.
- 2.6.** Jesus faced pressure to fulfill His destiny alone.
- 2.7.** Jesus faced the pressure that being a Son of God would not save Him (Matt. 26:39).
- 2.8.** Jesus faced pressure against spiritual struggle (Lk. 22:43).
- 2.9.** Jesus faced pressure to submit to His Father's will (Lk 22:42).
- 2.10.** Jesus faced pressure when He was kissed by the traitor (Matt 26:49).
- 2.11.** Jesus faced pressure when His disciples succumbed to fear.
- 2.12.** Jesus faced pressure when His disciples forsook Him (Matt. 26:56).

Conclusion

Jesus Christ faced severe pressure in following God's plan to save the world. He faced betrayal, denial, persecution as well as the most painful and shameful death on the cross. The crucial event in Gethsemane is the battle of the Son's will of obedience to the Father's will. Similarly, once we overcome the pressures of the world and decide to follow the will of the Father, He will give us all the strength and grace in order to fulfill the plan for us.

Reflection:

1. What are your life's pressures in following God's law and will at this moment?
2. How are you facing these difficult pressures?
3. What are your favorite Bible verse/s in order to gain strength and place full confidence in God?

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