

“Know What You Must Face”

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THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

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The story of Joshua, who took charge after Moses' death, shows his watchfulness as he takes the nation of Israel to the Promised Land, as instructed by God. As Christians, we must also do our due diligence in doing God's work. We must learn and realize the difficulties and troubles that we might face in following the Lord's plan.

1. **We will always be CONFRONTED with new CHALLENGES and accompanying DANGERS as we move forward.** Our discipleship with Jesus Christ is attached to sufferings and difficulties. Jesus himself suffered and died for love. In Acts 9:15-17, God told Ananias that He would tell Saul of the suffering he would face in doing God's work. He told His disciples that they, too, would suffer because of him. We can expect suffering as a disciple of Jesus Christ. It is part of God's plan, but we are assured of His presence in every situation (Matt. 28:20).

Moreover, our knowledge of the Lord is bigger than our storms. Knowing the Lord gives us faith and hope. Walking with Him means facing the cross before us and leaving our worldly life behind. Knowing the Lord includes keeping His word in our lives to remain joyful, steadfast, and confident (Rom. 8:31).

2. **It is more vital to know WHO is on our side when we are facing the enemy.** All that belongs to God is on the side of truth. Living in truth is very difficult, but we must be confident that God is on our side. We recall in the Old Testament that Moses and Israel endured hardships in the story of Exodus. They shouted for joy when they tasted freedom but grumbled to God in their thirst and hunger. When we are in need, we tend to forget how the Lord has blessed us. Our hardships teach us to hold on to God. We became mature as we overcome these challenges.

3. **Waiting on God means we are trusting God on the outcome of the situation.** There are situations in our life when God almost gave us our prayer petition, but it didn't prosper because of our decision to give up too early.

We have an issue with waiting for God because we don't like to wait. We must make room for God's plan in our lives. The Lord knows what's best for us at the best time. In waiting, we must not remain idle; we must continue to worship the Lord. God's delays are not denials, and we will realize this very soon.

4. **People who fail to move into new territory are condemned for the rest of their lives, moving in endless non-productive circles.** If God asks us to move and restore our life, we must rise and go to where the Lord will lead us. We must not forget whose side we are leaning on; if we are with God, then there is nothing to fear. If we fail to move, we will stay in our wilderness. God will always give us a way out to overcome our challenges (1 Cor. 10:13).

5. **We may face new enemies,** but God will always protect us (1 Josh. 1:5-6). When Joshua and Jonah crossed Jordan, they faced a new kind of opponent, but they still moved on. We will be facing new challenges and issues, but God will never forsake us. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8).

Conclusion:

Therefore, we should look forward with confidence to new challenges, plans, directions, and goals. We will soon see the victory God has promised us.

Reflection:

1. What keeps you from following God?
2. Why do you think it's difficult to do God's will?
3. Where are you now compared to your life before?

Prayer: “Father God, remove all the fears that inhibits us from stepping out in faith. Give us the grace not to look back anymore, but to move forward. You are our powerful God. In Jesus' name. Amen.”