

# Word Of Life Ministries

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## HARDSHIP

### **2nd Timothy 2:3**

**Thou therefore endure hardness (hardship) as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.**

**Hardship—Extreme privation, suffering.**

**Privation—Lack of the basic necessities or comforts of life. The condition resulting from such lack.**

**Affliction—Pressure, trouble, suffering.**

As Christians we must go through difficult times, there is no way we can avoid it. Whether we're believers or unbelievers we will go through difficult times. The difference between a unbeliever and a believer is that the believer has the Grace of God in their life to go through difficult times and come out with victory. Whereas the unbeliever is on their own, because they place their trust in themselves and the situation rather than God.

Many times Christians fall in their walk of faith because they have been made to believe once you become a Christian everything will be alright. In a sense it will be alright, because we have Jesus to be with us in hard times. Whatever we go through, Jesus is there to make sure we come through the test with victory when we place our trust in Him, but this is not to say that we will not have hardship. Hardship indicates suffering. Just as Jesus suffered so will we, when we decide to submit no matter what the cost. Jesus didn't suffer

because of obedience.

### **Hebrews 5:8**

**Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered.**

### **Philippians 2:8**

**And being found in fashion (appearance) as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.**

Jesus was our example, and if we want to be sons of God, we too must go through the process of suffering in order to be molded and shaped in the image of our Father and our brother Jesus Christ.

Like Jesus, if we are determined to obey the Father, we will suffer persecution, we will suffer rejection from love ones, friends and family. We will be lied on, sometimes we will suffer in our emotions, mentally as well as physically. We will suffer in our finances. Every area Satan thinks he can influence us to disobey God by doubt or weariness, he will attack. Many Christians have return to the world because they couldn't fight what they couldn't see, they couldn't endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

Like with any war, when you have been drafted, you are expected to fight. The military gives soldiers weapons to fight with and God has given us spiritual weapons to fight the enemy - His word, prayer and praise.

In the natural, when the adversary comes against the people of a region, the military will begin to draft civilians, but prior to them being

sent to war they'll go through a health inspection. If you have poor vision and eye glasses or contact lenses can't correct the problem, you will not be military material because you will need to see the enemy. If you're hearing impaired you will be excluded because you need to be able to hear which direction the enemy is coming. So in order to be accepted in the military you must be in good health as well as your senses operable to be trained for war.

God drafts unbelievers into His army and make them believers by bringing salvation. Once salvation has come, then He gives us His Holy Spirit to equip us to see and hear the direction of the enemy even when our natural senses are inoperable. Just like in a natural war, the soldier must be prepared for battle. The military doesn't send you forth to fight until you have been trained.

God prepares His soldier for war by instructing them through spiritual training on Sunday's and Bible Study nights. He encourages and build our faith for the battle when we read His word and follow the instructions; when hardship comes we can endure until our change comes without fainting or turning back to the world.

Every attack Satan comes against us with, the Lord has already given us the equipment to fight the good fight of faith and win!

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God never places us in a battle we can't win. The reason why the body of Christ is not showing the supernatural power that has been given us, is because too many times we try to find ways to escape to keep from going through basic training. Until we have been established enough to know when a test or trial comes, it's only to bring us closer to God's image. God wants us to demonstrate His power here on earth.

### **Psalm 115:16**

**The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's; but the earth hath he given to the children of men.**

It's our assignment from God to dominate the earth, not people, but the earth. In order to learn how to fight the good fight of faith, we must spend time with God in prayer, sitting before Him, listening to see what He has to say. Hardship brings about a spirit of prayer when we normally wouldn't pray. Most people pray when they want something from God or when they are in a test, trial or hardship. Suffering comes with Christianity, maybe it would be less and the suffering wouldn't seem so hard, if we would pray without God placing us in situations that will make us pray.

Hardship brings about spiritual maturity if we don't run from it and let it have it's perfect way in our life. While going through difficult times, don't stop praying, let your prayer be more intense, and be determined to know that as you pray, God is hearing the prayers, and in His timing, you will be delivered.

### **2nd Peter 1:5**

**And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.**

Faith is more than belief, it must result in action. We don't grow overnight, but as we continue in the faith and seek the things of God, we will continue to grow in the Grace of God, and as we grow, we will be stable soldiers in difficult times.

Moses was chosen by God to deliver the children of Israel out of Egypt, but before he could lead them, he had to be prepared. Moses learned what to say to Pharaoh by waiting and listening for directions from God. God instructed him in what to do. Moses had a rod and God used what Moses had and gave him authority to rule. The rod was a symbol of authority. When we yield ourselves to God, He will take what we have and use it to conquer the adversary. In order to be instructed by God, we must take time to hear from Him. Wait before Him and know although you may not hear Him all the time, He's placing something in your spirit as you stand before Him. You can never come into the presence of God, and leave empty.

Joseph was called and chosen by God, but he had to suffer hardship. He was disliked by his brothers. Joseph was sold to the Ishmaelites. Joseph loved God and submitted himself to God and because of his stand, he didn't let Potiphar's wife seduce him to having a sexual affair. Although Joseph did the right thing in God's eyesight, he still had to suffer. He was placed in jail, and while he was in jail, he was given favor. Although Joseph was walking up rightly before God, he still had trials and tribulations, he still had to go through hardship. He was away from his father, he had brothers that didn't like him, thrown in jail for a crime he didn't commit, but Joseph placed his trust in God and not the situation he was in and because of his faithfulness, God brought him out having the victory for both him and his family.

Hardship, trials and tribulations does not mean someone has sinned, take it as God has place them in a holding

place where they can hear him clearly. Job was a man that loved God, the Bible states he avoided evil. Job was an upright man before God and man, but Job went through hardship. He lost his children, after losing his children he was stricken with boils, had a wife that tried to influence him to curse God and die. Instead of his friends coming to console him, they said he must have sinned for this awful thing to come upon him. Through all this, Job worshipped God. Job knew who had his life and it wasn't the boils, his wife nor his friends.

### **Job 14:14**

**If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.**

Job waited on God, because he knew his redeemer lived, he knew he had not sinned against God. Job knew through his obedience to God, he would spend his days in prosperity and his years in pleasure.

When hardship come, we can't buckle down and give up, we must place our trust in the Lord. For as surely as one is born, whether righteous or unrighteous hardship will knock on the door of life. That is why it is so important to have fellowship with the Lord on a daily basis, reading and studying the word of God, having a praise in our hearts and in our mouth so that when hardship or Satan attacks, the word of God will be rooted and grounded in our hearts and spirit.

In order to fight the good fight of faith, one must be built up, and the only way we can be built up spiritually, we must take some personal time with God.

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Personal time indicates, seclusion from intrusion of others, just you and God with no interruptions. You talking to Him, and He's talking to you.

Too many times Christians attend church faithfully, but they don't have fellowship with God faithfully. We attend church to hear from God; what He's speaking through ministers, we come to fellowship with other believers, we attend to worship God in song and praises, and we attend to learn the word of God. After we do all this, there comes a time we must spend time with Him one on one. It's sad to attend church, and when trials, tribulations and hardship come, we can't take it, we're running here and there trying to get a word when all we have to do, is spend time with the Lord, He will prepare us for anything we have to go through, God is help in the time of trouble, but we must get in His presence so that He can come into our presence.

Daniel was a righteous man, he prayed faithfully and when his adversaries saw that they couldn't get Daniel to sin against God, they tried to set him up by influencing the king to make a decree that no one could ask a petition of any God within thirty days, if so, they would be thrown into the lions den. Daniel heard the decree, but he faithfully continued his daily prayer. Daniel didn't let fear stop him from communing with God. Daniel was thrown in the lions den, but God sent an angel and shut the lion's mouth. Daniel could have become fearful and stop praying because of the decree, but Daniel had an appointed time to meet with God and he wasn't going to let the king or anything else stop him from being in the presence of God.

We have to be like Daniel, be determined not to let nothing interfere with our time with the Lord.

Know that whenever hardship, trials and tribulations come, God is there in the midst. God will never place anything on us that we cannot bear. If we're going through something, that means, God knows we can take it. We will never grow to be spiritual giants if we never go through nothing.

We're constantly going and coming out of test and trials and hardship. We can't wish them away, but we can prepare ourselves. Have fellowship with the Lord, let him hear your voice other than at church. Spend time in His word and let His word penetrate your soul. Meditate on the word of God, keep a praise in your heart and in your mouth.

Prayer, praise, worship, obedience, fasting, and reading the word of God will help us keep the armor on. We don't want to be dragging it, nor do we want half of it on. We want to be well prepared for battle, seeing ourselves in victory and not defeat. As we prepare ourselves, it will strengthen our faith in God, it will give us determination to fight for ourselves as well as others. Jesus is the Commander, and we must follow His orders to win. Every believer that was used by God and those that just believed went through hardship, trials and tribulations, but they came out victoriously and we can too, when we place God as the head of our life when we let Him be Shepherd and Bishop of our souls!

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