

Finding Your Purpose in Times of Trial Everyday Supernatural Living – Part 9

Life Church St. Louis – May 5, 2024

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Pray Daily for your Five Friends Focus

James 1:2-3 (ESV) Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

Romans 12:18 (ESV) If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

1 Peter 4:12-13 (ESV) Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

1. Be a _____ to Resolve Conflict

Acts 6:1 (ESV) Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.

Acts 6:2-3 (ESV) And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.

Acts 6:4-5 (ESV) But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose

Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.

2. Rely on the _____ and Your Faith

Acts 6:6-7 (ESV) These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Acts 6:8 (ESV) And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.

Acts 6:9-10 (ESV) Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.

3. Be Prepared to Face _____

Acts 6:11-12 (ESV) Then they secretly instigated men who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council,

Acts 6:13-14 (ESV) and they set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law, for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us."

Acts 6:15 (ESV) And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Finding Your Purpose in Times of Trial Study Guide

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Intro. What are some of the trials that you have faced or are facing in your life?

What does James 1:2-3 tell us about how to face trials?

How can we live peaceably with others who are different than us (Romans 12:18)?

What should be our attitude when trials come into our lives to test us (1 Peter 4:12-13).

1A. How was Satan trying to use internal conflict to disrupt the early church (Acts 6:1)?

1B. What principles can we learn from how the apostles handled the conflict (Acts 6:2-3)?

1C. What does the peaceful resolution tell us about different purposes for different believers (Acts 6:4-5)?

1D. How could you be a peacemaker in a trial that you are facing?

2A. What was the result of the conflict resolution on the health of the church (Acts 6:6-7)?

2B. As Stephen was not an apostle and had been appointed to oversee food distribution, what do we learn from Acts 6:8?

2C. How was the Holy Spirit working in Stephen when verbally attacked from unbelievers (Acts 6:9-10)?

2D. In what ways are the trials in your life opportunities to grow spiritually through the Holy Spirit?

3A. What demonic strategies do we see the unbelievers using against Stephen (Acts 6:11-12)?

3B. What were the false witnesses attempted to do in Acts 6:13-14?

3C. What does Acts 6:15 tell us of Stephen's relationship with God?

3D. How should we be prepared for opposition as we spread God's truth in our world?