



BLOOD OF JESUS PRAYER AND DELIVERANCE MINISTRIES
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“HOW TO GROW THROUGH DIFFICULTY”
A Process of Faith-Part 5
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John 16:33b (NIV): "*...in this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.*"

2 Corinthians 6:4: "*In everything we do we show that we are God's servants, by enduring troubles, hardships and difficulties with great patience.*"

Acts 27:10 (TLB): "*Sirs,*" he said, "*I believe there is trouble ahead if we go on perhaps shipwreck, loss of cargo, injuries, and death.*"

THREE KEYS TO GROWING THROUGH DIFFICULTY

1. **Determine THE REASON of the difficulty.**
ask "What caused this?"

Four different causes for difficulty in our lives.

- * **YOU CAN BE a cause.**
- * **OTHER PEOPLE CAN BE a cause.**
- * **THE DEVIL CAN BE a cause.**
- * **GOD CAN BE a cause of difficulty in my life.**

Psalms 73:16–17 (NIV): "*When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.*"

Three Common Mistakes that get us into Trouble:

* We listen to **BAD ADVICE**.

Acts 27:11: "...followed the advice of the pilot..."

* We **FOLLOW THE CROWD**.

Acts 27:12 "...the majority decided that we should sail on..."

* We **RELY ON CIRCUMSTANCES**.

Acts 27:13 (MSG): "When a gentle southerly breeze came up, they weighed anchor, thinking it would be smooth sailing."

2. Determine **THE RESULT**.

Ask "What does God want me to learn from this difficulty?"

2 Corinthians 4:17: "These troubles and sufferings of ours are, after all, quite small and won't last very long. Yet this short time of distress will result in God's richest blessing upon us forever and ever!"

Romans 5:3-4 (TLB): "We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us—they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady."

3. Determine **MY RESPONSE**.

Ask: How should I handle this?

Three things we shouldn't do when going through difficulties:

* Difficulties can cause us **TO DRIFT**.

Acts 27:15: "so we gave way to it and were driven along."

* Difficulties can cause us **TO DISCARD**.

Acts 27:18: "...then began to throw the cargo overboard..."

Acts 27:31: "Paul told the centurion and soldiers, 'Unless these men remain in the ship, you cannot be saved.' So the soldiers cut away the ropes of the ship's lifeboats and let them fall away."

* **Difficulties cause us TO DESPAIR.**

Acts 27:20: *"we finally gave up all hope of being saved."*

THE BIBLICAL RESPONSE TO DIFFICULTY

1. Confess MY PART.

2. Confront THE ISSUE.

3. Claim A PROMISE OF GOD.

Acts 27:41 (NIV): *"But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow stuck fast and would not move, and the stern was broken to pieces by the pounding of the surf."*

Acts 27:42 (NIV): *"The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to prevent any of them from swimming away and escaping."*

Acts 27:43 (NIV): *"But the centurion wanted to spare Paul's life and kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land."*