

1. Reject Personal Victimhood and Embrace Challenges with God! (Philippians 1:12-14, Romans 14:12)

Philippians 1:12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel,

13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.

¹⁴ And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Romans 14:12 So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

2. Remember God's Past Deliverance for You (and Your Family) (Psalm 143:3-6)

Psalm 143:3 For the enemy has pursued my soul; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead.

⁴ Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled.

⁵ I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands.

⁶ I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.

3. Replace Your 'Sourness' with Encouragement (Psalm 73:1-9, 21, KEY 16-19, 23-24)

Psalm 73:1Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

² But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped.

³ For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

⁴ For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek.

⁵ They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.

⁶Therefore pride is their necklace; violence covers them as a garment.

⁷Their eyes swell out through fatness; their hearts overflow with follies.

8 They scoff and speak with malice; loftily they threaten oppression.

⁹They set their mouths against the heavens, and their tongue struts through the earth.

21 When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart,

16 But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task,

17 until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.

18 Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin.

¹⁹ How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors!

²³ Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.

²⁴ You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.

4. Recommit to Being 'Salt' & Light' (Matthew 5:13-16)

Matt. 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

