

The ROAD MAP TO GLORY

When we are in the midst of life's challenges, it can be tempting to muster up all our own willpower, wisdom and worry then focus it on solving the crisis. In the meantime, it's easy to forget about God or avoid Him. We may do this out of anger, fear of rejection, simple neglect, or even pride. Yet, in the midst of adversity, our only reliable and constant source of hope, peace, joy and purpose is Jesus Christ through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Navigating these five points of focus can help you experience God and thrive in both the best and worst of times.

Rest in the Faithfulness of God — SURRENDER

Resting in God means learning to surrender — to experience the presence and power of God through trust in His faithfulness and Divine perspective. When we frantically try to maintain control of our household, routine and relationships or desperately protect our comfort zones, when we hide our fears and yearning for validation, it is this challenge to surrender which re-captures our attention. The sovereignty and sufficiency of Almighty God is enough. More often, we remember to be on our knees first and trust the outcome to Him. *See how Jesus did this in Matthew 26:36-39.*

Saturate Your Mind with God's Truth — FAITH

When we are grieving, battling depression, questioning God's plans or processes, or doubting His faithfulness and love, it is more important than ever to linger in God's Word. One certain way to grow in your faith is by reading the Bible with attentiveness to what God is saying and give no validation to the lies, accusations, confusion, or doubt planted by the enemy. *Discover the way in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5.*

Anticipate the Surprises of God's Love — HOPE

Holding on to hope can seem unreasonable when facing some of life's greatest challenges. When a relationship, diagnosis, symptoms or situations don't seem to change, or when progress seems insignificant or non-existent, it's "safe" to just stop hoping for better days. We protect ourselves from disappointment or from the potential to look foolish by setting hope aside. Yet when things seem hopeless or when prayers seem unanswered and God appears indifferent, we must remember the various ways He has proven His holiness. He awes us throughout Biblical history and He has surprised us in our own life experiences with unexpected treasures. God's love for us is unfathomable. We need to ask Him to restore our confidence that He will, again and always, do amazing things beyond what we could ever ask or imagine. *Embrace the promise of Ephesians 3:20-21.*

Cultivate a Grateful Heart before God — JOY

When caught in the grip of grief, discouragement, pain or consuming fatigue, we crave the restoration of our joy. It's easy to grumble or get stuck in sorrow. But God changes hearts and promises a chance to start over. He uses our obedience to His ways to transform our attitudes, emotions and perspectives. By taking time to worship God and practice gratitude, we make our hearts available for God to fill us with joy and strengthen us for the road ahead. *Follow Colossians 3:15-17 as your guide.*

Enjoy the Ripples of God's All-Consuming Comfort — SHARING

When facing a life challenge, it is tempting to hide our problems, withdraw from activities and relationships, or resist reaching out to serve. Yet God uses our intersections with others to enable the release and increase of His healing and transformational power. The fact is, God moves in the relational intersections to stretch, comfort and strengthen us. We are God's masterpieces and the community He weaves among us is some of His best handiwork. God's goodness is multiplied when life and ministry are shared! *Embrace the promise of 2 Corinthians 1:3-5.*