**Intro: Don’t be Afraid of God’s will for our lives!**

* We don’t allow Obstacles stop us.
* We don’t allow Oppression stop us.
* We don’t allow the reality of Death stop us.

**God is bigger than all things!**

* We need to fear God! [ Daniel Feared God more than the King! ]
* God doesn’t want us to stop serving Him!
* God can stop time and existence at any moment.
* Colossians 3:23-24 “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.”

**3 Things today I want to talk about that are critical for us to know about God!**

**#1 God is in every trial we will face! Acts 12:1-4**

**In the Bible Acts 12 we come another death of a Believer. Stephen was the 1st murder by Saul in Acts 7:59.**

**What can we learn in hardship?**

1. **Hardship and failures can teach us lessons that success cannot.**

**Quote – Adversity is a bridge to another place where God is taking you!**

* King David said “Psalms 118:18 “ The LORD hath chastened me sore: but he hath not given me over unto death.”
* Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the thoughts/plans that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thought/plans of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end/a future and hope.
* Praise God for love and mercy in trials!

1. **God is growing your faith so put your heart into it!**

* Nothing shall offend you/ Stop you - Psalms 119:165” Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.”
* Our Faith is more preciouos than Gold to GOD –
* 1Peter 1:7 “ That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1. **God wants to be glorified in us, so don’t quit!**

* Romans 5:1-6 - Jesus Died for our sins and As Believers we can rejoice in any trial Trusting The Love of God!
* A Question we need to ask ourselves:
* Do I trust God’s Love for me?
* Can God tell me to do something for Him and I will do it because I know God’s Spirit is in me?
* A Vital Truth we need to know and believe!
* God will not lead against His will and plans for us and we are His beloved ones!
* People in the Bible :
* Be an Abraham and not a Lot!
* Abraham lead His family towards God’s will and Lot lead his family close to the world when trials came their way!
* Abraham ***build an altar*** for his family to pray and worship God.
* Lot ***build an alteration*** and changed how to pray and worship God.

**#2 God uses our Prayer to see and know His will for our lives. In this chapter we see a prayer meeting for Peter who is in prison! Acts 12:5-7,12,**

**What is prayer?**

1. **Prayer is seeking God’s heart in the matter.**

* Pro. 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

1. **God takes our prayer and shows us His will and purpose in life.**

The Prophet Samuel prayed for

* 1 Samuel 12:23 “ Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:

1. **Make time to Pray!**

* 1 Thess. 5:17 “Pray without ceasing.

1. **Pray about everything!**

* 1 Peter 5:7 “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

**#3 God killing a powerful man, King Herod and his rebellious heart towards God’s plans. God said enough! Acts 12:20-24**

**What offends God?**

1. **When evil doers take recognition as being God!**

* Satan’s Pride - Isa 14:13 “For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:
* Quote. “If something is costing you peace with God than it is too expensive!

1. **When we don’t fear God more than we fear man.**

* Matthew 10:28 “ And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Conclude:

* #1 Are we wasting our suffering or learning from them?
* #2 Are we taking it to God in prayer?
* #3 Are we Fearing God more than man?