

13. Acts 21-24 — When Life's Realities Hits

We can learn to face life's realities with courage and peace, entrusting ourselves and our loved ones to a God who loves us dearly.

Remember that God is Good—Luke 8:22-25

1. Pagan View of Trouble
2. Biblical View of Trouble *John 16:33*
 - Truth #1: We live in a fallen, evil, cursed world.
 - Truth #2: God has chosen from the beginning to give human beings the freedom to act
 - Truth #3: God, who is great and powerful, will one day wrap up history and fix it.
3. We can entrust ourselves and our loved ones to a God who loves us dearly. *Romans 8:37-39*

Release Your Fear—Luke 8:26-39

- Fear can be real or imaginary.
- God doesn't want us to live in fear. *Psalms 56:3*

Receive Courage and Peace with Thanksgiving—Luke 8:40-56

- We have a compassionate God. *Matthew 11:28-30*
- We have a creative God.

Applying Faith to Fear

1. Confront it. What fears do you have right now?
2. Ask about each one: What is my worst-case scenario?
3. Consider: If the worst I can imagine happens, could I handle it through the presence and power of Jesus Christ?
4. Pray: Thank the Lord for His presence and His goodness.
 - Ask Him for the courage and peace to ride out the storm. Where the Word of God is clear, you can claim God's promises by faith.
 - Anytime, you can ask—but you cannot hold God to promises He hasn't made—such as immunity from natural calamities, illness, and troubles.
5. Live life securely in Him: Take common sense precautions. Trust God to show you what to do and give you strength when you are weak.

God loves me; He knows what is going on; He can do something about it. But, even if he doesn't change the circumstance, I know I can trust His goodness.