

# God of Trials

Pt 1

*"Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed."* -1 **Peter 4:12-13**

# What Is the Purpose of Trials?

A Trial is...

- the process of proving the quality or worth of...  
...something or someone.
- a test of your faith, patience or endurance...  
...through the process of suffering.

# What Is the Purpose of Trials?

Three Greek words are translated as "trial" in the New Testament

- *Dokimion*... Proof -Trustworthy Faith

**A Testing Trial in which your Faith is Proved Genuine**

*"These have come so that your **faith**—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be **proved genuine** and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed." -1 Peter 1:7*

- *Pyrosis*... Refined Character -to kindle, to be ignited, glow, be refined

**A Fiery Trial Through Which Character is Refined, as Gold is Refined (implies suffering)**

*"Do not be surprised at the **painful trial** you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you." -1 Peter 4:12*

- *Peirasmos*... tested commitment –**putting to the proof –to Assay -**

**A Trial or Temptation Through which the Quality of your Commitment is Tested**

*"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the **testing of your faith** develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." -James 1:2-4*

# **God Means It for Good**

**Young Joseph incited Resentment and Jealousy.**

- Jacob Needed Refining**

- **brothers done with him after he bragged that one day they would bow down to him -Gen 37:5-11**

- God Smooths the Rough Edges of our Character by Various Trials and Testings that Build Confidence in His Purpose and Provision for us.**

- The Sands of Abrasion were Very Real in Joseph's Life**

- **God used his trials of rejection and suffering and years of undeserved punishment to soften him.**

# God Means It for Good

- **Joseph's Self-centered Spirit was replaced with Compassion even for those who had tried to harm him -Gen 45:8-11**
- **More importantly, Joseph Learned to Trust God. His most powerful pronouncement was made when he told his brothers, "*You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives*" -Gen 50:20**
- ***"The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."* -1 Peter 5:1**

# **God Means It for Good**

**A Faith that has Not Been Tested...**

**...Cannot Be Trusted**