

# **God of Trials**

Pt 3

*"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**

**God Means It for Good**

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

**...Cannot Be Trusted**

## What Process Is Possible During Trials?

- Little **apple seeds** that grow into **large apple trees** go through a ***process*** of change.
- A ***process*** is marked by a series of natural, gradual changes that lead toward an end result.
- This is exactly what God has in mind when He allows trials to enter your life. If, like the seed, you are willing to die to self, God will begin a ***process*** in you that can result in great spiritual growth.
- *"Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."* -**John 12:24**

## **The Process... in the Psalms**

### **•Trials Turn You to God.**

*"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me all day long, 'Where is your God?' These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng. Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God." -Psalm 42:1-6*

### **•Trials Bring God to You.**

*"You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry." -Psalm 10:17*

### **•Trials Motivate You to Cry Out to God.**

*"I cry aloud to the Lord; I lift up my voice to the Lord for mercy. I pour out my complaint before him; before him I tell my trouble. When my spirit grows faint within me, it is you who know my way. In the path where I walk men have hidden a snare for me." -Psalm 142:1-3*

## **The Process... in the Psalms**

- **Trials Lead to Personal Examination.**

*"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."* -**Psalm 139:23-24**

- **Trials Draw You Back to God's Will.**

*"Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word."*  
-**Psalm 119:67**

- **Trials Draw You to God's Word.**

*"It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees."* -  
**Psalm 119:71**

## **The Process... in the Psalms**

- **Trials Produce a Hatred of Sin.**

*"Since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin."*

-1 Peter 4:1

- **Trials Produce a Heart of Humility.**

*"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time."* -1 Peter 5:6

- *"Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy."* -Psalm 126:5