

God of Trials

Pt 5

"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

Is It Possible to Choke God's Grace in Our Lives

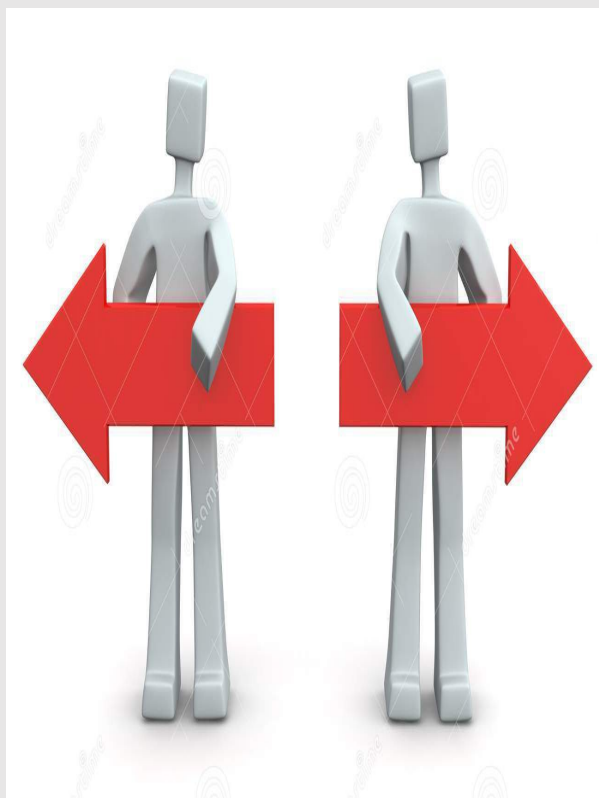
- **The Mere Presence of Pain is Not a Promise that you Will Grow and Mature.**
- **The Trial Itself Does Not Produce Growth.**
- **Your Attitude and Response Toward Your Trial Determines What God Can Accomplish in Your Life.**
- **Do You Resist God's Grace by Bitter Murmuring/ Complaining, or Do You Respond with a Humble Heart... The Fertile Soil for Spiritual Growth?**

"See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many." -Heb 12:15

In Other Words...

Trials Never Leave You the Same ...

Bitter



Better

Bitter Heart:

"If I'd had enough faith, this would not have happened to me."

Humble Heart:

Faith does not prevent suffering. Actually, the godly are Called to Suffer.

"It has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him." -Phil 1:29

Bitter Heart:

"Life is cruel, and so is God."

Humble Heart:

I will accept both the joy/ suffering that my loving Father allows to come into my life.

"Shall we accept good from God,/ not trouble? 'In all this, Job did not sin..." -Job 2:10

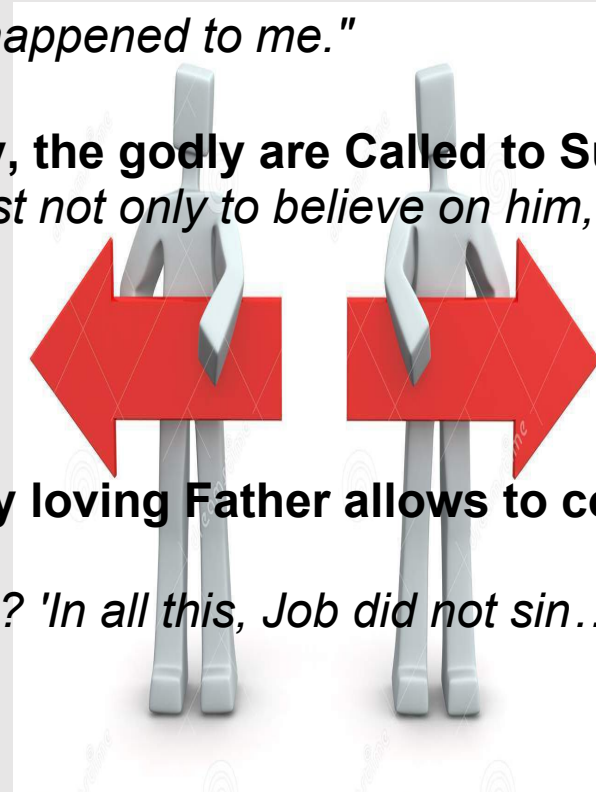
Bitter Heart:

"I'll just endure this trial until it is over."

Humble Heart:

I want to learn what God is trying to teach me in this trial.

"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." -Hebrews 12:11



Bitter Heart:

"All trials and suffering are the result of sin."

Humble Heart:

God often allows the innocent to suffer in order to display His grace.

"Neither this man nor his parents sinned,' said Jesus, 'but this happened [he was born so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.'" -John 9:3

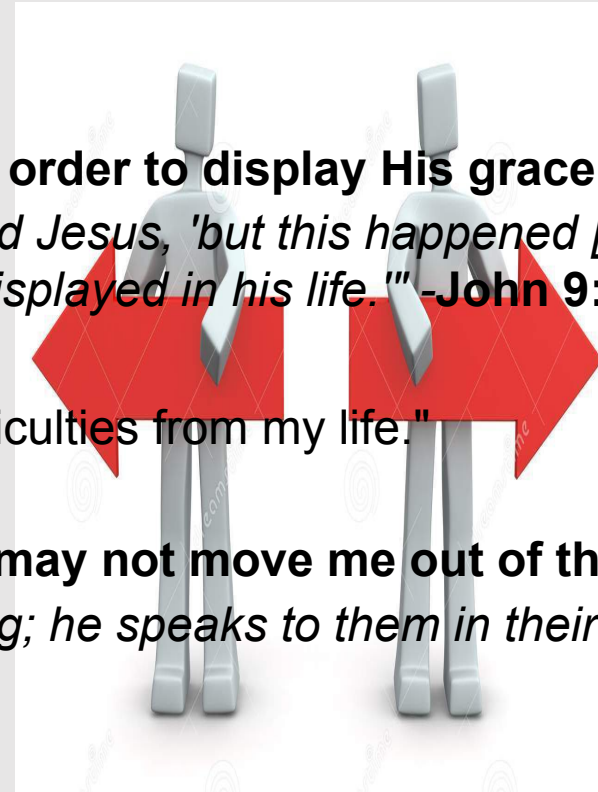
Bitter Heart:

"God has failed me by not removing these difficulties from my life."

Humble Heart:

God will deliver me in the trial, though He may not move me out of the trial.

"Those who suffer he delivers in their suffering; he speaks to them in their affliction." -Job 36:15



Bitter Heart:

"I cannot forgive God—He could have prevented this."

Humble Heart:

God will give me the grace I need to have victory in whatever He allows to happen in my life.

"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)

The Harvest of a Bitter Heart

God has already provided the grace for you to be triumphant through the most severe of trials, yet many people allow seeds of bitterness to take root in their hearts. A bitter root will bear bitter fruit, the taste of which only increases your sorrow.

"Each heart knows its own bitterness." (Proverbs 14:10)

