

God of Trials

Pt 4

"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

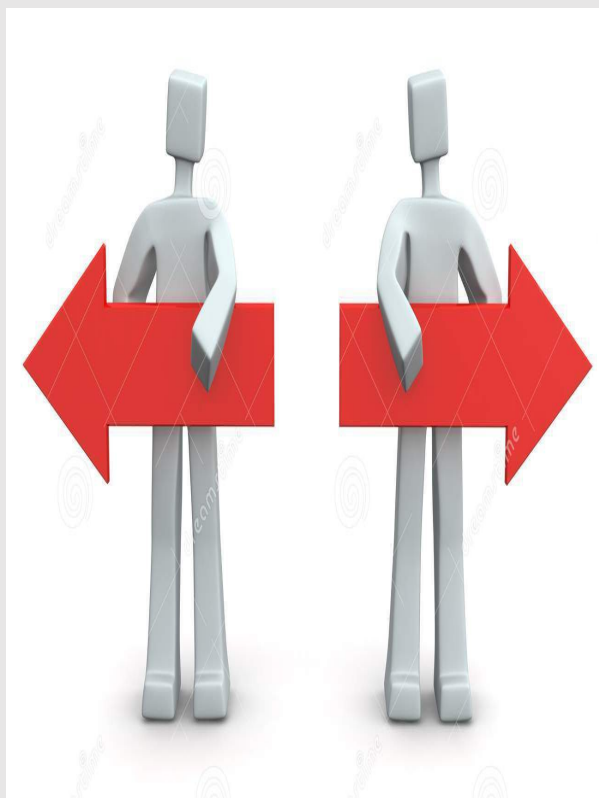
- **The Mere Presence of Pain is Not a Promise that you Will Grow and Mature.**
- **The Trial Itself Does Not Produce Growth.**
- **Your Attitude and Response Toward Your Trial Determines What God Can Accomplish in Your Life.**
- **Do You Resist God's Grace by Bitter Murmuring/ Complaining, or Do You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

Heart Attitudes That Choke God's Grace

Bitter Heart:

"How could a God of love allow so much suffering?"

Humble Heart:

God's ways are always just. He never does wrong.

"He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he." -Deuteronomy 32:4

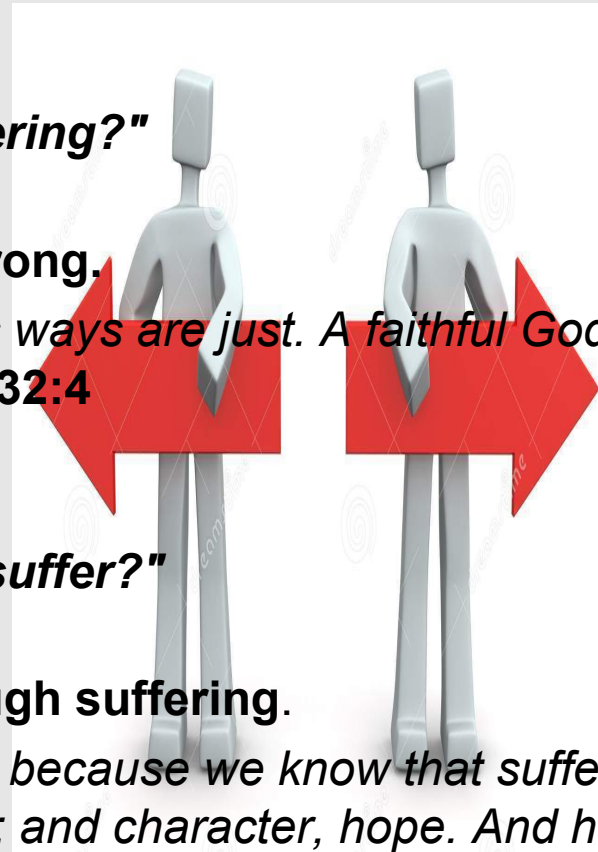
Bitter Heart:

"God is all powerful, so why is He letting me suffer?"

Humble Heart:

In God's perfect plan, He will perfect me through suffering.

"Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us." -Romans 5:3-5



Bitter Heart:

"I seem to suffer more hardships than others. It doesn't seem fair!"

Humble Heart:

I am no different from others. God allows all His children to suffer.

"You know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings." -1 Pet 5:9

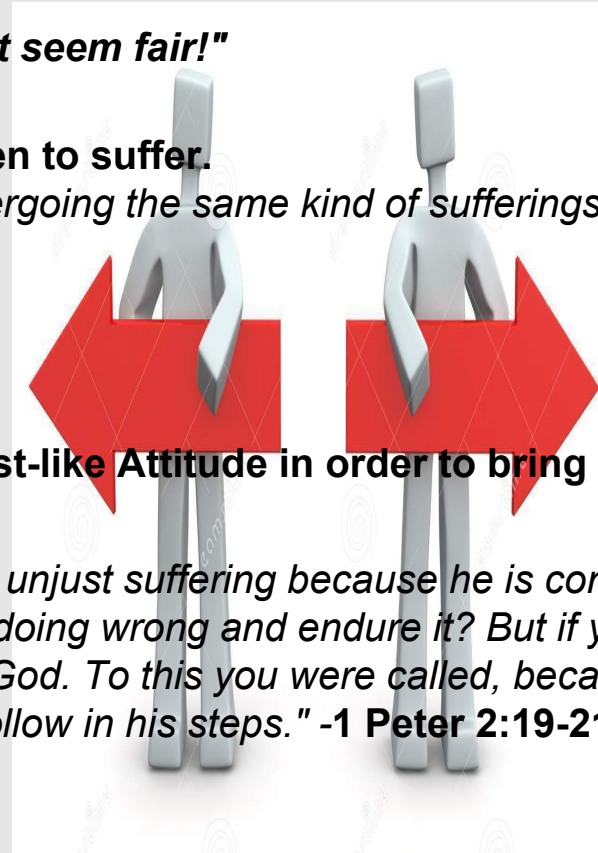
Bitter Heart:

"I have a right to be angry. This is so unjust."

Humble Heart:

Even though my trial seems unfair, I will display a Christ-like Attitude in order to bring Glory to God.

"For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps." -1 Peter 2:19-21



Bitter Heart:

"God has turned His back on me."

Humble Heart:

God is especially Close to me when He Knows My Heart is Hurting.

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." -Psalm 34:18

Bitter Heart:

"I cry out to God, but it seems He is not hearing me"

Humble Heart:

God Cares about my Sorrow, and He Hears My Cry for Help.

"He has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help." -Ps 22:24

