

God of Trials

Pt 6

"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**

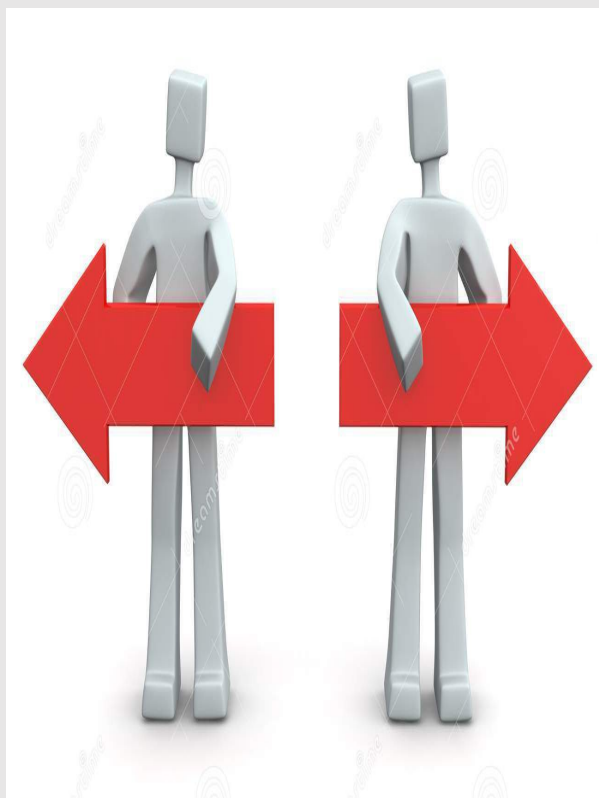
God Means It for Good

A Faith that has Not Been Tested...

...Cannot Be Trusted

Trials Never Leave You the Same ...

Bitter



Better

Causes of Trials

Contrary to Popular Belief...

...God Does Allow Trials in Our Lives

- A popular movement today is the "name it and claim it" mentality:
- "What the mind can conceive, you can achieve."
- Even financial success becomes a bonus if you "just believe."
- Yet this New Age belief is not biblical, as you can see from the whole counsel of God's Word. 1 Tim 6:3-10
- "People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction."* -1 Tim 6:9

Called to Trials and Suffering

Called to Commitment

•**God calls you to endure the pain of unjust suffering because of your commitment to follow Christ. While Scripture is clear that every authentic Christian experiences the Lord's provision, to follow in His footsteps means you will also be called to suffer!**

"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 Pet 2:19-21

Called to Correction

•**God disciplines you because He loves you—you are His beloved child. Although self-will moves you off course, God puts you back on course by allowing you to suffer the consequences of your sin.**

"Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?" -Hebrews 12:7

Called to Trials and Suffering

Called to Compassion

•God views suffering as the school of experience that can give you a heart of compassion for others. During times of trial your most lasting lessons come from the comfort and counsel of God.

•*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows."* -2 Cor 1:3-5

Called to Conflict

•God calls you to take a stand for truth and righteousness in the midst of wrong. Those who choose to live godly lives in the midst of worldly values will be criticized and persecuted.

•*"Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."*
-2 Tim 3:12

Called to Trials and Suffering

Called to Christlikeness

•**God Designs Refining Fires that Cleanse your Character and Conform you to Christ. You can Accept Your Fiery Trials when you Accept God's Purifying Purpose.**

•*"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."* -Rom 8:29

Called to Conquer

•**God allows Satan to tempt and attack you, just as he did Christ, in order that you can stand against the enemy and live out of your victorious position in Christ. Jesus defeated Satan, and you are more than a conqueror in Him.**

•*"In all things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."*
-Rom 8:37