

God of Trials

Pt 8b

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**

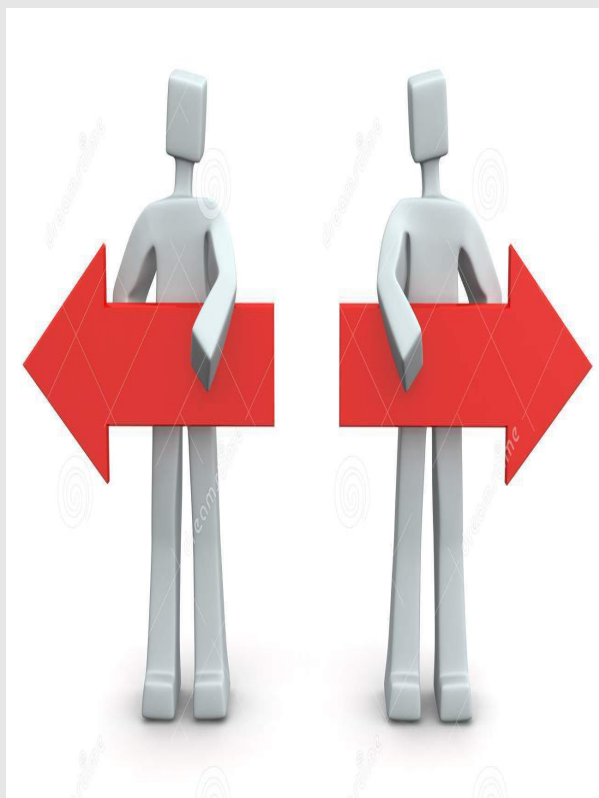
God Means It for Good

A Faith that has Not Been Tested...

...Cannot Be Trusted

Trials Never Leave You the Same ...

Bitter



Better

Seasons of Sowing

•Spring... Sowing Seeds of Purpose

"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown." -Luke 8:5-8

•A wise farmer carefully cultivates the soil before his spring planting.

•In the same way, God has been preparing the soil of your heart through trials and suffering.

•You can sow spiritual seeds of maturity by choosing to respond with heart attitudes that are like those that Christ demonstrated, even though there will be times when you do not feel able to respond in a Christ-like way.

Sow the Seeds of...

•**Thankfulness-** Thank God for What He is Doing in Your Life.

"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." -**1 Thes 5:18**

•**Joy-** **Rejoice in the Lord, Knowing That the Outcome is in God's Hands.**

"We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance." -**Rom 5:3**

•**Confession-** **Search Your Heart and Confess Any Hidden Sin.**

"He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy." -**Prov 28:13**

•**Humility-** **Know that God Gives Grace to the Brokenhearted.**

"He gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'" -James 4:6

Sow the Seeds of...

- Wisdom- Saturate Your Mind with Scripture.**

"I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word." -Psalm 119:15-16

- Prayer- Do Not Worry, but Pray About Everything.**

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." -Phil 4:6-7

- Endurance- Look to the Lord for Deliverance.**

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." -1 Cor 10:13

- Trust- Entrust Yourself to God, Who Judges Justly.**

"When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly." -1 Pet 2:23

Sow the Seeds of—

- Obedience-** **Learn to Hear and Obey God's Voice.**

"This is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love." -2 John 6

- Dependence-** **Act in the Power of Christ.**

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength." -Phil 4:13

- Praise-** **Focus on God's Greatness, Not on Your Circumstances.**

"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name." -Heb 13:15

- Ministry-** **Look for Ways to Reach Out and Help Others.**

"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" -2 Cor 1:3-4