

God of Trials

Pt 8c

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**

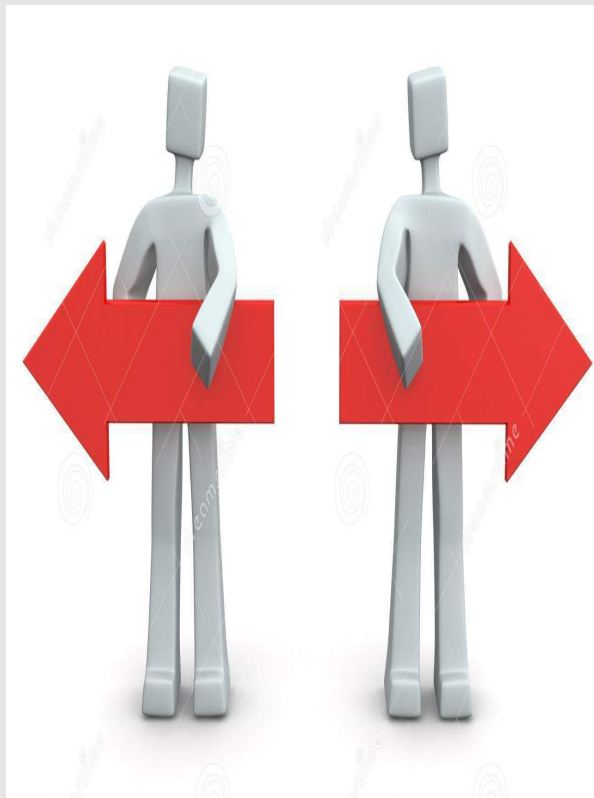
God Means It for Good

A Faith that has Not Been Tested...

...Cannot Be Trusted

Trials Never Leave You the Same ...

Bitter



Better

Seasons of Suffering

•Winter... Suffering the Chills of Pain

*"Do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering,
as though something strange were happening to you." -1 Pet 4:12*

The Cold Winds of

- Sorrow**
- Tears**
- Heartache**

Blow into the Lives of Everyone...

...but as a Christian,

...You Have a Blanket of Strength Knowing that...

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.

Summer... Living in the Sunshine of Provision

"Count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus" -Rom 6:11

- **When turbulent trials blow across the sunny skies of your life, how do you respond?**
- **Do you stew and fret, searching for solutions?**
- **Instead, realize that the presence of trials in your life reveals that God may be trying to get a message through to you.**
- **Maybe your tendency is to deny the facts, blame others or simply sink into self-pity.**
- **Regardless of the weather report, realize that the Spirit of Christ is living in you and gives you power to live above the winds of any adversity.**

Biblical Truths to Tell Yourself

- **Know** with certainty that your life is surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - **Tell yourself:** *"I am a child of God!"*
 - **Truth:** *"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" -1 John 3:1*
- **Know** that your unsaved self was crucified with Christ.
 - **Tell yourself:** *"I am dead to sinful ways!"*
 - **Truth:** *"For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin." -Romans 6:6*
- **Know** that you have been separated from the power of sin.
 - **Tell yourself:** *"I may want to sin, but I don't have to!"*
 - **Truth:** *"Do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires" -Rom 6:12*
- **Know** that sin need not control you.
 - **Tell yourself:** *"When I respond in a sinful way, I am making a choice!"*
 - **Truth:** *"Sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace." Romans 6:14*

Biblical Truths to Tell Yourself

- **Know** that there is Power in God's Word –Memorize -Quote when tempted to sin.
 - **Tell yourself:** *"Shall I go on sinning? By no means! I am dead to sin. How can I live in it any longer?" -Rom 6:1-2*
 - **Truth:**
"What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?" -Rom 6:1-2
- **Know** that the Spirit of Christ lives in you.
 - **Tell yourself:** *"I have the power of Christ in me!"*
 - **Truth:**
"If Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you." -Romans 8:10-11
- **Know** that you can face trials from a position of victory.
 - **Tell yourself:** *"My battle has already been won!"*
 - **Truth:**
"God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus." -Ephesians 2:6)

Biblical Truths to Tell Yourself

▪ **Know** that you are an instrument of righteousness for God.

- **Tell yourself:** *"I will give God total authority over everything I do and say!"*

- **Truth:**

"Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness." -Romans 6:13

▪ **Know** that you live in the presence of Christ.

- **Tell yourself:** *"I want to submit to the convicting of the Holy Spirit!"*

- **Truth:**

"So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.... Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." -Galatians 5:16, 25

▪ **Know** that you are God's child.

- **Tell yourself:** *"I believe that as God's child I am led by His Spirit"*

- **Truth:**

"For if [I] live according to the sinful nature, [I] will die; but if by the Spirit [I] put to death the misdeeds of the body, [I] will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God." -Romans 8:13-14