

God of Trials

Pt 8d

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**

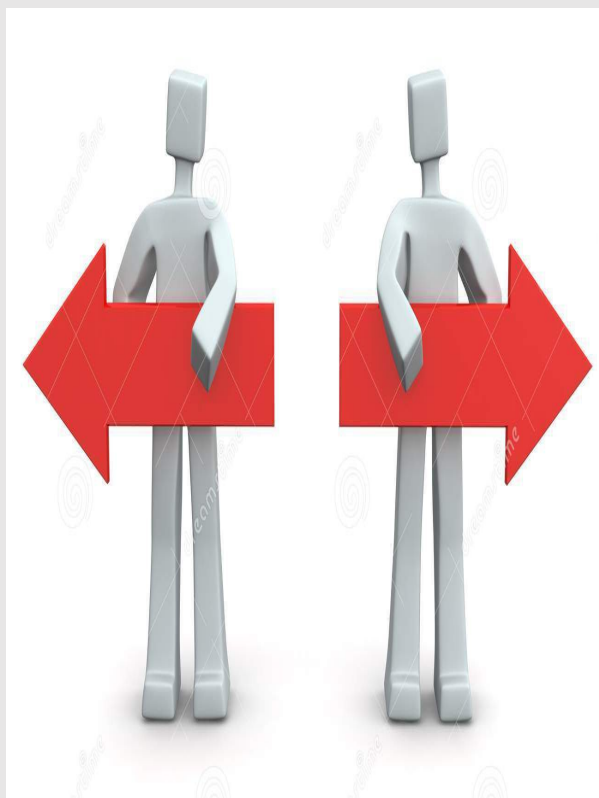
God Means It for Good

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.**

Fall... Reaping the Harvest of God's Promise

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

- **Responding Properly to Your Trials Reaps a Large Return.**
- **To the Extent That You Allow the Master Tiller to Work Through the Rocky, Unproductive Ground in Your Life, You Will Grow in Patience and Perfection.**
- **Then as You Mature, You Will See that *Problems* are the Evidence of God's *Promise* to Produce the Life of His Son in You.**

Responding Correctly to Trials Reaps:

- **A greater understanding of life**
- **An objectivity with insight into daily events**
- **The capacity to discern between good and evil**
- **An ability to rise above daily stress**
- **A brighter outlook when trouble comes**
- **A deeper understanding of the ways of others**
- **A biblical viewpoint for making difficult decisions**
- **A heart for the heavenly calling**

"Press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called [you] heavenward in Christ Jesus." -Philippians 3:14

What God Hath Promised

- **God hath not promised skies always blue,**
 - Flower strewn pathways all our lives through.
- **God hath not promised sun without rain,**
 - Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.
- **God hath not promised we shall not know**
 - Toil and temptation, trouble and woe;
 - He hath not told us we shall not bear
 - Many a burden, many a care.
- **God hath not promised smooth roads and wide,**
 - Swift, easy travel, needing no guide;
 - Never a mountain rocky or steep,
 - Never a river, turbid and deep,

What God Hath Promised

- **But God hath promised strength for the day,**
 - Rest for the laborer, light for the way,
 - Grace for the trials, help from above,
 - Unfailing sympathy, undying love.