

WHEN TRIALS COME

I have 3 questions tonight? Who here is mature?

Who here is complete and perfect?

Who here has absolutely no needs?

I have a message from God's Word to all who did not raise their hands.

As we go by Faith in obedience to the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ we are going to face various trials and temptations. In God's Word we are told about many trials.

James 1:2-4 "face trials of many kinds"

1 Peter 4:12-13 "do not be surprised"

1 Corinthians 10:13 "common to men...also provide a way out"

What are some trials we face?

- The death of a loved one.
- Rejected or ignored by family or friends.
- Forgotten by friends.
- Losing employment.
- Accidents and sickness.
- Financial loss or theft of our property.
- Temptations to have wrong priorities.
- Failing exams, not being promoted to the next class.
- False accusations.
- Unfaithful staff.
- Temptations to sin.
- And many more.

1. What is the purpose of trials? James 1:2-4.

Trials are testing of our faith, allowed or given by God for the ultimate purpose of making us Mature, Complete and Lacking Nothing. This is a wonderful life. When we face trials of many kinds we must realize that God is paying special attention to us. He wants to test our faith because "without faith it is impossible to please Him", Hebr.11:6

2. What should our attitude be when trials come?

Very often our attitude is not rejoicing! We complain, grumble and even get angry. "Why me?"

The Bible says that we must consider it pure joy. (James 1:2)

We must realize God's purpose. He is testing our faith. He may have a wonderful assignment for us or a promotion or greater responsibility. So He is testing our faith. Our attitude? Rejoice, thank you Lord! Persevere. Never quit!

3. Examples of trials.

The trials of Job. He was the richest man on earth and within 1 day he became the poorest man on earth. He 10 children, 7000 sheep, 3000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 donkeys. Large fields of grain and wheat. In one day he lost everything.

Job's reaction? Job 1:20 "He fell to the ground and worshipped God...The Lord gave And the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised"

Job passed the test!

His wife's reaction? She told Job, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!" Just commit suicide Job! Job replied: "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God and not trouble?" (Job 2:9-10)

Job passed the test and God made him twice as prosperous as before. He had now 14000 sheep, 6000 camels, 1000 yoke of oxen and 1000 donkeys. His wife came back and again they had 10 children!

Trials of Joseph. The favored son of his father. A shepherd boy with little or no education. God had a wonderful plan for Joseph. Some day he would be Prime-Minister of Egypt and ruler of the world. He would save the whole world, including his own family from starvation. God tested Joseph's faith for a period of 13 years. Genesis 37-40

He was hated by his brothers. They could speak a kind word to him. They were jealous of him. They even intended to kill him. (37:4,11,19)

He was thrown into the well by his own brothers. (37:23)

He was sold as a slave to the Middianite merchants for 20 pieces of silver. (37:28)

He was resold to Potiphar, and Egyptian government official. (39:2-6)

He was tempted day after day by Potiphar's wife (39:7-19)

He was falsely accused trying to rape Potiphar's wife

He was thrown into prison (39:20)

He is forgotten by a friend for 2 years (40:23)

8 major trials for period of 13 years. What was Joseph's reaction? The Bible says that God prospered him and gave him success in all he did. Joseph was faithful in all his duties. He did not complain and he passed all 8 tests.

When the testing was finally over Joseph was brought from prison to the palace. He was inaugurated as the ruler of all of Egypt. Perseverance let him to become mature, complete and lacking nothing.

The Blessings of Trials.

- (1) We learn to trust God and depend on Him, Proverbs 3:5-6
- (2) We experience the love, care, provision and faithfulness of God.
- (3) We also discover who our real friends are.
Proverbs 17:17 "A friend loves at all times"
Proverbs 18:24 "A friend is even closer than a brother"
Proverbs 10:10 "Do not leave a friend"
- (4) We are encouraged by prayers, letters and support of those who love us.
- (5) We have opportunity to persevere and allow God to make us mature, complete and lacking nothing.