

Biblical View of Trials

Lesson 17

Memorize (Select One) –

- ✓ John 16:33 - These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.
- ✓ James 1:2 & 3 - Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

A biblical view of trials is essential to growth. An unbiblical view of trials will result in confusion and bitterness. Trials are divinely designed opportunities for growth in faith and Christlikeness presented to us in work clothes. They require a right view of God and right response in order to gain their full benefit.

A portrayal of the Christian life as ongoing happiness and freedom of conflict is contrary to the Scriptures. Entire books of the Bible deal with the reality of trials in the lives of God's people. In Hebrews Chapter 11 you will note that examples of faith and lives of adversity and suffering go hand in hand.

Jesus promised trials but He also provides grace for endurance. So, "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your _____, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the suffering of Christ, keep on _____" (1 Peter 4:12 & 13).

I. God's Sovereignty in Trials

Record that part of the following passages that express God's sovereignty in trials:

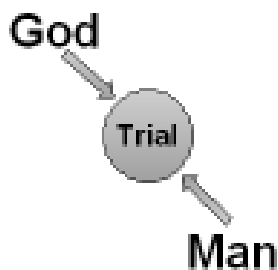
- ◆ Genesis 50:20 _____

- ◆ Jonah 1:17 _____

- ◆ Romans 8:28 _____
- ◆ I Cor. 10:13 _____

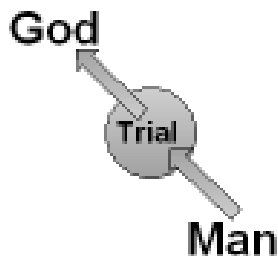
II. Man's Response to Trials

A. *Horizontal View of Trials (Pride)*



A wrong view of trials will focus upon the trial but fail to see _____ at work in the trial.

B. *Vertical View of Trials (Humility)*



A right response to trials is when I choose to look beyond the trial and focus upon _____ by dwelling upon His character and promises.

God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6).

Proud Man

***Resists his trial
Gets bitter
Relief at all cost
Focus is upon happiness
Complains (Why me?)***

Humble Man

***Receives his trial
Gets better
Remains under the pressure
Focus is upon Holiness
Rejoices and is thankful***

Here's a helpful way to respond to your trials like Joseph:

Memorize these key points from Jay Adam's booklet, How to Handle Trouble:

1. Recognize God is in the problem.
2. Remember God is up to something.
3. Believe that He is up to something good.
4. Discover where and how God is at work.
5. Get involved in what He is doing.
6. Expect good results.

III. Trials as Faith Builders

- ◆ In the midst of Job's suffering, what did he determine to do (Job 13:15a)?

- ◆ What did the psalmist state as the benefit of his affliction (Psa. 119:71)?

- ◆ From Romans 5:3 & 4, list the benefits available through tribulations.

- ◆ What did the life threatening difficulties that Paul experienced produce in his life (II Cor. 1:9)?

***"Suffering is the textbook that will teach you who you really are."
- Joni Erikson Tada***

- ◆ According to James 1:2, what attitude are you to have in trials?

- ◆ What is it that you know your trials produce (James 1:3)?

- ◆ What is required of those seeking wisdom while experiencing trials (James 1:6)?

IV. Trials as Fruit Indicators

- ◆ Read I Peter 1:6-8. From verse 6, what is the natural human response to trials? _____. When I choose to rejoice in my trial and trust God, my response can serve as the _____ of my faith (verse 7).
- ◆ If you should suffer for doing what is right, whose example are you following (I Peter 2:21)? _____
- ◆ What will all who desire to live a Godly life experience (II Tim. 3:12)?

- ◆ What did Jesus promise to those who suffer ridicule or persecution for the sake of righteousness (Matt. 5:12)?

“A faith that is not tested is a faith that cannot be trusted.”

- W.W. Wiersbe

Trusting God in adversity is faith in action. (Hebrews 11)