

HOW TO BENEFIT FROM TRIALS

PART 2

1 PETER 1:3-9

Introduction

We have begun to look at the subject of “*How To Benefit From Trials.*” We said that even we who **REJOICE IN CHRIST, SUFFER GRIEF** from all kinds of **TRIALS** and **TRIBULATIONS** in this life just as much, if not more so, than those who don’t know **CHRIST**.

We looked at THE PURPOSE OF OUR TRIALS and we said:

I. *OUR TRIALS ARE DESIGNED BY THE LORD FOR US!*

II. *OUR TRIALS ARE DESIGNED BY THE LORD FOR HIS GLORY!*

If we don’t see THE PURPOSE FOR OUR TRIALS, we will never BENEFIT FROM OUR TRIALS!

HOW ELSE CAN WE BENEFIT FROM OUR TRIALS?

I. **WE CAN BENEFIT FROM OUR TRIALS IF WE VIEW THEM AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A BLESSING RATHER THAN A CURSE! (i.e. TRIALS are an OPPORTUNITY for the LORD to SHOW UP and GET THE GLORY THROUGH THE TRIAL!)**

A. **We Can View Our Trials As A Curse And Cause Ourselves And Others Heartaches! (No Benefit!)**

Is there anybody here this morning that you just love being around someone who has a “*Woe is me!*” **ATTITUDE?**

I’m talking about someone who is constantly talking about how bad their **TRIAL** is and how unfair it is for them to have to go through it! The person may even have become embittered against **GOD!**

Its not that we’re necessarily uncompassionate toward those who are going through **GREAT TRIALS** and are verbalizing their **STRUGGLES**.

Its just that it is that kind of **ATTITUDE** that will not only

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WEAR on the one with the **ATTITUDE**, but it will **WEAR** on those who have to be around them!

I know that I certainly would rather be around one who is looking for what lessons the **LORD** would have them to learn through their **TRIAL**, than one who is constantly verbalizing how crushed they are by their circumstances.

There are some folks, who when **TRIALS** come, stop being **FAITHFUL TO GOD** and **STOP SERVING GOD**.

(I’m talking about even some preachers that I’ve known who allowed themselves to drown their spiritual life in self-pity.)

But understand, for the **genuine CHILD OF GOD**, **quitting on God just deepens their problems** as they then have to **deal with the CHASTENING hand of a LOVING GOD**.

I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again, **GOD LOVES HIS CHILDREN** too much to leave them in a backslidden condition.

So, We Can View Our Trials As A Curse And Cause Ourselves And Others Heartaches! Or...

B. **We Can View Our Trials As An Opportunity For Blessing And Bring About Blessing To Both Ourselves And To Others!**

To illustrate this I want to use a couple of Biblical examples:

1. **JOSEPH. Genesis 45:3-8; 50:15, 20.**

If **JOSEPH’S ATTITUDE** had been wrong, he would have missed out on the **OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A BLESSING**. But, **JOSEPH’S ATTITUDE** was that **GOD** sent him to **EGYPT** for a **REASON!**

2. **PAUL and SILAS. Acts 16:19-34.**

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Think about how **PAUL** and **SILAS** who were unjustly detained, beaten with many stripes, and then thrown into the inner part of a **PHILIPPIAN** prison with their feet put in stocks!

In the midst of that severe **TRIAL**, if they had displayed a **BAD ATTITUDE**, do you think they might have **MISSED THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE A BLESSING** to the **PHILIPPIAN JAILOR** and his **FAMILY**?

But instead of having a **BAD ATTITUDE**, **PAUL** and **SILAS PRAYED** and **SANG PRAISES TO GOD** in the midst of their **TRIALS**!

The **LORD SHOWED UP** in a great earthquake!
And through their **WITNESS**, **SOULS WERE SAVED** and **LIVES WERE CHANGED**!

WE CAN BENEFIT FROM OUR TRIALS IF WE VIEW THEM AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A BLESSING RATHER THAN A CURSE!

II. WE CAN BENEFIT FROM OUR TRIALS IF WE CHOOSE TO TRUST IN THE LORD RATHER THAN CHOOSING TO LEAN UPON OUR OWN UNDERSTANDING AND WAYS! *Proverbs 3:5-8*

A. **KING ASA Tried To Handle His Own Problem In His Own Way And It Cost Him Dearly!** (*2 Chronicles 16*)

What a great **OPPORTUNITY** he had to **SHOWCASE GOD** and **HIS GLORY**, but he chose to try to handle the problem **his own way** and the **LORD** wasn't pleased!

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And then he doubled down on his **TRIAL** by lashing out at a man of **GOD** sent to him to show him his error!

Have you ever tried to handle a problem by yourself and make an absolute mess out of it? I know I sure have!

2 Corinthians 3:5—“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;”

III. WE CAN BENEFIT FROM OUR TRIALS IF WE WILL KEEP OUR FOCUS ON THE LORD!

A. **Ten Of Twelve Spies And Israel Focused On Themselves And Their Problems Rather Than God!**

(Numbers 13:25-33; 14)

B. **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego Focused On God Rather Than Their Problems!** (*Daniel 3:12-18*)

When we are in the midst of **TRIALS**, it is important that **OUR FOCUS** be on the **LORD** and not on ourselves or our problems!

IV. WE CAN BENEFIT FROM OUR TRIALS IF WE WILL LEARN FROM THE LORD DURING THE TRIAL AND THEN SHARE WHAT WE LEARNED WITH OTHERS!

(1 Peter 5:6-11; 2 Corinthians 1:3-5)

1 Samuel 30:6—“And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: **but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.**”

Psalms 27:13-14—“I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. **14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.**”

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Psalms 55:22—“Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.”

Psalms 56:3-4—“What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. 4 In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.”

Hebrews 13:5-6—“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”

Psalms 34:15—“The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.”

Conclusion

Have you gone through some **TRIALS** lately? What did those **TRIALS** do for you? Did they crush you? Or did they strengthen you?

Maybe you're going through some difficult **TRIAL** right now. How are you handling it? Are you looking for **GOD'S PURPOSE** in it all?

Are you viewing it as a CURSE or as an OPPORTUNITY to both RECEIVE A BLESSING and BE A BLESSING?

Are you trying to handle the TRIAL yourself or have you tapped in to GOD'S SWEET GRACE to get you through the TRIAL?

Is your FOCUS on yourself and your problems or on GOD?

Where are you seeking comfort in your TRIAL? From the preacher?
From your family? From your friends? From the world? Or from **GOD?**

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Maybe you've not faced a **TRIAL** lately. But in this life one could easily come today, tomorrow, or in the not too distant future.

Are you prepared to handle it in a way that will honor GOD?

Let me tell you that if you don't know **GOD** you are not ready for the **TRIALS** that this life can throw at you.

Remember what Job said, “*Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.*”

Why don't you come to the **Lord Jesus Christ** today so that you can have someone to cast your care upon when the troublesome time come?