

# THE TRIALS OF LIFE

## I. EXAMPLES IN THE BIBLE OF PEOPLE GOING THROUGH TRIALS

Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, Paul, etc.

## II. THE OVERALL GOAL OF YOUR LIFE – Romans 5:1-2

You are saved and then are glorified. You should be excited about this, exulting in this truth, this future reality. Romans 8:30, John 17:24

## III. GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR PRESENT LIFE – Romans 5:3-5

There will be tribulation, perseverance, proven character, hope, and love. Psalm 136

## IV. TRIBULATION – Romans 5:3

A. Tribulation is defined as affliction, distress, pressure, persecution, trials. There are work trials, financial trials, marriage trials, relational trials, trials with children, church trials, health trials, and personal trials. 1 Peter 1:6

B. Paul doesn't talk about being healthy and wealthy, he talks about tribulation. *"In the world you have tribulation."* John 16:33, Acts 14:22. You are not to get upset about trials, but to exult in them. This doesn't mean you like the trial, but you are trusting God, believing He's working it out for good. James 1:2, Psalm 119:71

C. You are to fully know what this trial brings about. You are to fully understand the process, going from the trial to perseverance to proven character to hope to love.

## V. PERSEVERANCE – Romans 5:3-4

A. The trial is to bring about, to produce, to achieve, to result in perseverance. God uses trials to help you learn to keep going, to endure, to persevere.

B. To persevere means to abide under, to remain under, to be patient. God wants to give you His grace so you can continue in the trial, stay in the trial, and not be upset or worried, and try to get out of it. Joseph, Moses

C. When you go through a trial, your faith, your reliance and dependence on God is being tested. Are you going to trust in God or yourself? Are you going to keep trusting in God during the course of the trial? James 1:4, Romans 4:18-21, Hebrews 11

D. A trial is a humbling circumstance. A trial is designed by God so that you humble yourself before Him, so you admit to Him that you need Him, and so that you then trust Him. Being humble is a means of receiving God's grace, and grace is what you need to get through a trial. 1 Peter 5:5, Deuteronomy 8:1-10

#### VI. PROVEN CHARACTER – Romans 5:4

When a believer perseveres in a trial, then he is proven in that he passes the test. The heat has been turned up in his life, and impurities are removed. Being proven means the believer has grown in godly character - in faith, humility, perseverance, and hope. Trials help us to spiritually grow up, to grow in godly character.

#### VII. HOPE – Romans 5:4-5

A. The new Christian has hope, for He knows he will go to heaven and be with Jesus.

B. The tested and tried Christian has even more hope. He is even more excited and looking forward to heaven and being with Jesus.

#### VIII. LOVE – Romans 5:5

Love is an overall and comprehensive truth that affects your entire life, that binds this entire process together. All that happens in your life, including trials, is because of God's great love for you. Hebrews 12:4-11

**FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES.**

Hebrews 12:6

#### SOME QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:

1. What is the main thing that you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. What is one of God's primary goals of your life? How does this relate to trials?
3. What kind of trials have you gone through? What is their purpose?
4. What does it mean to persevere through a trial? How can you do it?
5. What character qualities is God building in your life when you go through a trial?
6. What is hope? Do you see how God is developing hope in your life through a trial?
7. How does the love of God relate to this whole process of going through a trial?