

LEARNING FROM YOUR TRIALS

I. A BIBLICAL SUMMARY OF YOUR LIFE – Romans 5:1-5

- A. As a Christian, you are justified and have peace with God. Verse 1
- B. You have hope, and are to exult in this hope of the glory of God. Verse 2
- C. You have trials leading to perseverance, proven character and hope. Verses 3-4
- D. Hope is the confident expectation of the future love of God for you. You are loved by God, which is the basis for your entire Christian life, as well as a key to growing through trials. Verse 5, Psalm 136, James 1:12, 1 John 4:19

II. A SIMILAR BIBLICAL SUMMARY OF YOUR LIFE - 1 Peter 1:3-9

- A. You are to praise God that He has caused us to be born again. Verse 3
- B. God has given you hope for the future. Verses 3-4
- C. You are protected by God as you await being glorified. You are to rejoice in God that He has given you this great hope of your future. Verse 5, Luke 10:20
- D. During your life on earth you have trials, which builds your faith. Verses 6-7
- E. Loving, trusting and rejoicing in God are keys to your spiritual growth. Verses 8-9

III. SOME VERY IMPORTANT DETAILS ABOUT YOUR TRIALS – 1 Peter 1:5-9

- A. “*Now*” you have trials, during your life on earth. But God will protect you, and give you the grace you need to endure your trials, and then take you to heaven. 2 Timothy 4:18
- B. These trials last for a “*little while*.” From God’s perspective, in view of all eternity, your trials last only a little while. 2 Corinthians 4:17; Hebrews 11:10, 13-16
- C. The trials you go through are “*necessary*.” God knows what He is doing, and only designs trials for you that are necessary for your Christian growth. Romans 5:3, Psalm 119:67, John 15:1-5

D. Trials will result in you being “*distressed*.” Trials usually cause you grief, sorrow and difficulty. God meant for trials to be hard so that you learn to trust Him more, and rejoice in Him. The difficulty of the trials you go through, is a means of spiritual growth, and of growing closer to God. Hebrews 11:24, Job 42:5

E. There are “*various*” trials, all kinds of trials - financial, work, family, relational, church, health, physical, car, emotional and personal trials.

F. Trials are to show forth the “*proof of your faith*,” that your faith in God is strong, and are to result in God receiving praise and glory. James 1:2-4

1. Hebrews 11 talks about people who had faith in God as they went through trials.
2. The trials people experienced usually related to the work God wanted them to do.
3. Your continued faith in God will result in His work being done. You need to learn to persevere in doing what God wants you to do in spite of your trials
4. Your faith in God is infinitely more important than anything else in the world.

G. Having this big picture of your life is essential, and that ultimately all the trials you go through are for God’s “*praise and glory*.” Romans 8:18-25

H. Successfully going through trials means that “*you love Him*,” “*believe in Him*,” and “*greatly rejoice*” in Him. It is God’s love for you that is to motivate you to love Him, trust Him, and rejoice in Him. James 1:2, Romans 15:13

THE LORD YOUR GOD IS TESTING YOU
TO FIND OUT IF YOU LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD
WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL.
Deuteronomy 13:3

SOME QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:

1. What is the main thing that you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. How does God want you to summarize your life? Do you see the big picture?
3. What are some of the keys to your spiritual growth? How is your spiritual growth?
4. List some of the trials that you have experienced as a Christian.
5. Do you specifically see what God is doing in your life through your trials?
6. Why is your faith so important, so valuable? How would you rate your faith in God?
7. How is knowing God’s love and loving Him major keys to growing through trials?