

## **THE POWER OF TRIALS** **(I Peter 4:12)**

As believers we should neither be surprised or dismayed concerning trials and tribulations that come into our lives. It may be grief from the loss of a loved one, an unending physical infirmity, a long term illness or financial crisis. It may be a personal problem with family, friends or even at church.

**I Peter 4:13** The one thing we can count on is that God has His reasons for such trials and we must by faith trust Him to do what is best for us while we wait to discover God's purpose while in the trials.

**I Peter 1:6-9** The early church was facing tremendous suffering at the time of Peter's writings. However, they were suffering trials not for their evil doing but for their steadfast adherence to Christ.

### **Trials Are Temporary**

**I Peter 1:6; II Cor. 4:17-18** Notice Peter tells us the trials are “for a season.” Paul says that we need to look at our trials as “light afflictions” in relation to all of eternity. There is glory and reward awaiting those who can endure the trails of this life through faith with the right attitude.

**Job 23:10** No one has suffered the “temporary afflictions” that Job went through. In such a short time Job suffered through physical, emotional, financial and spiritual trials and in the end was found faithful.

### **Trials Are Needed For Growth**

**I Peter 1:6; Rom. 8:28** Notice the little phrase “if need be..” God's infinite wisdom knows exactly what kind of trial we need and at the exact time we need it in order to stimulate our spiritual growth.

**II Corinthians 12:7-10** Paul was given “a thorn in the flesh” by God in order to quench Paul's cancerous pride from keeping him from the task God had for him. God uses anything to help us grow.

**I Peter 4:12-13; Rom. 8:29** God pre-determined that His children be conformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ. The only way to do that is to also have us partake of some of Christ's sufferings.

### **Trials Are Distressing**

**I Peter 1:6** Peter says that these believers “are in heaviness..”, meaning they are stressed and emotionally drained because of their many trials and temptations. Sometimes the mental strain put on us by the tribulations is worse than the bodily toll that comes with constant pain and sorrow.

**Psalms 69:20** David was in anguish and sorrow of heart when he cried out to God for some comfort in his tribulations. He was without the love of a friend or someone that understood and take pity on him.

### **Trials Are Divers**

**I Peter 1:6; Job 2:10** We are told several times in scripture that trials and tribulations come in all shapes and sizes. Sometimes they will afflict us physically or mentally. They can attack us personally or through friends, family, church members, through finances, our job or through material loss.

**Hebrews 12:6, 11** Trials may come as a reminder of our disobedience and as a warning to get right.

### **Trials strengthen And Refine Us**

**I Peter 1:7; Job 23:10** God's purpose in trials and testings is to find out the sincerity and strength of our faith, love and trust in Him. His trials are not set up for us to fail but for us to grow and for God to brag on us in glory.