

Understanding Trials in Christian Life

1 Thessalonians 3:1-8

#1: Our Trials Can Upset Us

1 Thess.3:1-3a - 1“So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. 2 We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God’s fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, 3a so that no one would be unsettled by these trials”



#2: Our Trials Are Allowed by God

1 Thess.3:3b - “You know quite well that we were destined for them”

“these hard times were placed here by God.”

Some trials are caused by... **Satan**

... **Others**

... **Ourselves**

...but God is the one who allow them to happen.



Covid-19 Pandemic...Who caused it to happen?

God?

Satan?

China?

- **Selfish People** can infect others
- **We ourselves** can get infected

“For the child of God, there are no accidents, only incidents.”

Romans 8:28 – ***“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”***



Expect Trials to come in our lives

1 Thessalonians 3:4 – *“In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know.”*

2 Tim. 3:12 - *“Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted”*

John 16:33 - *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

Consider Trials as a joy in our lives

James 1:2 - “Consider it **pure joy**, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds.”

James 1:3,4 – “because you know that the testing of your faith produces **perseverance**. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be **mature and complete**, not lacking anything.”



Romans 5:3,4 - “We also **rejoice** in our **afflictions**, because we know that affliction produces **endurance**, endurance produces **proven character**, and proven character produces **hope**.”

1 Peter 1:6 - In all this you greatly **rejoice**, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in **all kinds** of trials.

1 Peter 4:19 - So then, those who suffer according to **God's will** should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

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#3: Our Trials Can Make or Break Us

1 Thess.3:5 - *“For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way **the tempter might have tempted you** and our efforts might have been useless”*

Satan tempts us to fall away during our trials.



How does the devil tempt us in difficult times?

1. To **doubt** God's **goodness**
2. To **retaliate** against others with **anger** and **resentment**.
3. To **give in** to **despair** and **discouragement**.

All these things can make us desperate and give up our faith in God altogether.



Our trials can make us productive

Produce Faith in God

1 Thess.3:6 - *“But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your **faith** and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you”*



What kind of faith?

- *Faith in God's **Character**...*
- *Faith in God's **Word**...*
- *Faith in God's **Purpose**...*
- *Faith in God's **Promise**...*
- *Faith in God's **Presence**...*
- *Faith in God's **Power**...*

Produce Encouragement to Others

1 Thess. 3:7,8 - *“Therefore, brothers, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your **faith**. For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord.”*

Conclusion

- Our trials **can upset us...**
- Our trials **are allowed by God...**
- Our trials **can make or break us...**

Our difficult times are designed to bring us closer to the Lord.

Do not be fearful of the trials we are going through.

