

[NEW BELIEVER'S]

Bible Study #7

TRIALS

Even though we are Christians, we can—and will eventually—find ourselves in a hard situation. We should not be surprised or afraid, because God will help us bear it. In a previous lesson we learned that God will give us the power of the Holy Spirit to guide us and gifts to strengthen each other. Now we will learn how to use that power and those gifts to stay strong in hard times.

Let's begin by memorizing 1 Corinthians 10:13:

NO TEMPTATION HAS OVERTAKEN YOU EXCEPT SUCH AS IS COMMON TO MAN, BUT GOD IS FAITHFUL WHO WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO BE TEMPTED BEYOND WHAT YOU ARE ABLE, BUT WITH THE TEMPTATION WILL ALSO MAKE THE WAY OF ESCAPE, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO BEAR IT.

When we lose the emotions and feelings we have been experiencing—the ones that have been helping us be faithful to God, we should not think He has deserted us! We are being tested and refined.

Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.
—1 Peter 4:12–13

In this lesson you will learn:

- What trials are for.
- How God uses trials.
- What we should do when we are in the middle of a trial.

As you answer these questions, do not simply copy the Bible verses, but use your own words.

We experience a trial when God allows temptations, tribulations (hardships or afflictions), or our relationships with other people to test our faith and to conform us to the image of Christ. It is the process He uses to help us grow, to make our faith stronger, and to teach us to trust Him more.

1. When we become Christians, we do not stop having troubles. How did Jesus describe our lives in this world?

(John 16:33) _____

2. What should be our attitude when we are having our faith tested by trials or temptations? Why?

(James 1:2–4) _____

3. What are some of the results of trials?

(2 Corinthians 4:17–18) _____

(1 Peter 1:6–7) _____

Having patience or perseverance means “steadfastly enduring adverse circumstances with joy.”

When the Lord is dealing with us as His children, He will allow tribulations to chasten or discipline us. We should patiently endure our hardships and afflictions.

To chasten or discipline means “to train, educate, instruct, correct, reprove, or admonish.” It is a positive loving way for God our Father to eliminate evil and encourage good in us. It is not harsh punishment.

4. When our Father disciplines or chastens us, He is demonstrating our relationship to Him. What is that relationship?

(Hebrews 12:5-8) _____

5. Why does God discipline or chasten us?

(Hebrews 12:9–10) _____

Holiness means “moral perfection or freedom from sin.”

6. In the end, what do we receive when our Father disciplines us?

(Hebrews 12:11) _____

Another way God tests our faith is by allowing Satan to tempt us. Each time the Lord helps us resist another temptation, we learn to trust Him more. He uses it to build our faith in Him.

Temptation is Satan’s attempt to get us to sin. He may tempt us through something we see. He may tempt us by putting evil thoughts in our minds. He may tempt us by making us feel proud. It is not a sin to be tempted! It is only a sin when we give in to the temptation.

7. Satan's temptations are strong, but what do we have that is stronger?

(1 John 4:4) _____

8. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 and answer the following questions.

Do you face brand new temptations that no one else has gone through before?

Will the Lord allow your temptations to be so strong that you will be unable to resist them?

What will the Lord provide when you are tempted?

9. Matthew 4:1–11 describes Jesus being tempted by Satan. What did He use to respond to Satan's temptations?

(Matthew 4:4, 7, 10) _____

10. When we give into temptation, what is the result?

(James 1:13–15) _____

11. If we find that we have sinned what should we do about it? How will Jesus respond to us?

(1 John 1:9) _____

2 Corinthians 4:17–18 tells us three things about trials.

- They are trivial compared to the sufferings of Christ and the glory we will have in heaven.
- They are temporary compared to the eternity Jesus has prepared for us.
- They are transforming. They cause us to be more like God's Son Jesus Christ.

12. What encouragement does the Lord give us concerning every event and circumstance that happens to us in the world?

(Romans 8:28) _____

13. We see God uses all the events in our lives to shape us and mold us. Whose likeness is He trying to make us into?

(Romans 8:29) _____

Jesus told us in John 14:27 that the peace He gives is not like the peace the rest of the world has. His peace does not depend on favorable circumstances. It comes from knowing that God is still in control, no matter how bad things may appear. We can trust Him to see us through the rough times. The hardships we suffer are not a surprise to Him. They are part of His plan. He uses them to prepare us, not for a temporary life of comfort, but for an eternity of holiness.

If you find yourself in a trial, seek guidance from God's Word and from Him in prayer. You might pray something like this: "Lord, help me to learn from this. Help me to become what You want me to be. Help me trust You through everything."

Write out your memory verse below:

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