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Infusion

Become

Believe

Belong

Befriend

7 WHAT ABOUT TRIALS,
DISCIPLINE & TEMPERING

INFUSING THE LIFE FOUND IN CHRIST
THROUGH FAITH IN GOD'S VITAL PRECEPTS,
MAKING EVERY MEMBER WHOLE
SPIRIT, SOUL & BODY

WHAT ABOUT TRIALS, DISCIPLINE & TEMPERING

Session 7

~♦✳♦✳♦✳♦✳♦✳~ **BELIEVE** ~♦✳♦✳♦✳♦✳♦✳~

Introduction: Do bad things happen to Christians? It can seem so; however, there is a difference in how the believer reacts to negative circumstances. Before you were thrown about by life's circumstances like a leaf caught in a funnel cloud. Now the Holy Spirit trains us to respond to circumstances like eagles respond to head winds and thermal drafts. He causes us to set our wings to rise.

I. Trials

1. Trials come to the Christian same as anyone else.

“Matthew 5:45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

2. The difference for us is trials will not harm us. They actually make us better when we employ our faith and talk with God about them.

” 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.”

- A. James admonishes us to think of it as a _____ thing when trials come because it will produce _____ in us.” James 1:4

B. When things that are unpleasant to our flesh (old nature) come into our lives it will have the effect of “crucifying” our fleshly desires. Trials will;

Expose weaknesses in our faith and character

Weaken the flesh

Train us in godliness

Produce patience

Strengthen our faith

II. HOW?

1. Know that you are not the first one to experience being “seized” by temptation. You are not alone. God has promised there is a way out!

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. -- New International

2. **Keep an Eternal perspective**

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

A. The troubles of this life are temporary. How you spend the rest of your eternity depends on how you choose to respond to troubles in this life now.

2 Corinthians 4:18 *So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

B. You are making deposits into your eternal account. There will be rewards for your actions now.

Matthew 6:1,2

1. *Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.*

2. *Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward.*

C. Remember your eternal life is invested in now and you must fight for it! Don't be so quick to give up.

1 Timothy 6:12 *Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

D. Remember who fights for you. And consider the source of the problem. Are you battling a defeated foe? He will not win, you do. So don't let him trick you into letting go of the reward that comes from holding fast to your faith.

Deuteronomy 33:27. The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.

3.Sow Seed

Sow seeds of compassion, goodness, gentleness.

Reap the harvest of spiritual fruit of the Holy Spirit.

John 4:36 Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.

The time to plant is when you recognize the need for a harvest. If someone's hurting you; then you need a harvest of mercy or compassion. Give and it will come back to you, pressed down, shaken together and running over! Has someone stolen from you? Then you need a harvest of righteousness. Sow seeds of doing the right thing no matter the cost!

1 Peter 3: 14-17

14. But and if you suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are you: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

15. But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

16. Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

17. for it is better, if the will of God be so, that you suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

4. God will give you what you need to prevail!

***1 Corinthians 11:32** When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.*

***2 Timothy 1:7** For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

III. DISCIPLINE

God corrects those that He loves

Hebrews 12:5-7

5. And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,

6. because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

7. Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

IV. Tempering

We need endurance and self-control. Our father will turn bad things to our benefit as we yield to his training. We learn to hold on till the answer comes. We learn to trust no matter what circumstances bring. Our faith is strengthened as we trust his leading through the trial. It's like spiritual "Boot Camp." It won't last forever.

***"Romans 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1. What are trials supposed to do to a Christian?*

- 2. Is there a difference between the way a Christian should handle the trials of life, and the unbeliever?*

3. *What eternal perspective can help us get through our momentary troubles?*

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: 2 Corinthians

*Use the **BIBLE Study Tool** as you read. Return your completed form to the next session for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment:*

ANSWERS:

Pg. 1 - joyful, patience