

75. GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN TRIALS AND TESTINGS

Bible Reading: Job 23:1-17; Philippians 4:6,7.

Aim: To increase our faith in God and His Word, so that we have peace in all situations of life.

Introduction:

Peace means "knowing what to do whatever comes. It is knowing that every situation and every area of our lives are in God's competent hands."

Peace means that God cannot fail. If we sin against God, we are missing God's best; but as we humbly seek God's will and obey it, we have God's promise that "all things work together for good to them that love God." Romans 8:28.

As we go through the trials and testings of life, let us comfort one another with these promises of God:

1. GOD KNOWS ALL THAT ENTERS OUR LIVES.

"He knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Job 23:10.

"I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy: for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities." Psalm 31:7.

"The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in Him." Nahum 1:7

God loves us in spite of what we are, and in spite of our sins.

"O LORD thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassed my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. Thou has beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me." Psalm 139:1-5.

God knows our needs long before we do. He is never surprised. Problems are allowed into our life by God for **our good** and for **His glory**.

"That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto. For verily, when we were with you we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know." I Thessalonians 3:3,4.

2. GOD CARES.

God tells us that He cares for us in every trial and sorrow. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, therefore will we not fear." Psalm 46:1,2.

"Cast thy burden upon the Lord and he shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." Psalm 55:22.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me;.....my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30.

"Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you." I Peter 5:7.

3. GOD IS ABLE.

People may know and care, but only God is able. How able is God? "Call unto me and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things that thou knowest not." Jeremiah 33:3.

"He will be our guide even unto death." Psalm 48:14.

"Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee and thou shalt glorify me." Psalm 50:15.

"Now unto him that is **able** to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." Ephesians 3:20.

"God is **able** to make **all** grace abound toward you; that ye **always** having **all** sufficiency in **all** things, may abound to **every** good work." II Corinthians 9:6-11.

4. GOD HAS A PURPOSE.

God has never done anything without a purpose.

Question: What are some of God's purposes for allowing trials and testings to enter our lives?

Answer:

a) **To draw us to Christ** as Saviour. As long as things run smoothly most adults are complacent and see no need for Christ.

b) **To prove His sufficiency.** When we give our problems to God, we get what God can do.

"Give us help from trouble; for vain is the help of man. Through God we shall do valiantly: for He it is that shall tread down our enemies." Psalm 108:12,13.

"Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit. The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings." Jeremiah 17:5-10.

God allows adversity that we might be aware of our need for Him.

c) **For God and His glory.** "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28.

We must praise God when shattering things come into our lives because God is going to teach us something of His greatness.

d) **To draw us to God's Word and to Prayer.** "For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly." Psalm 84:11.

Question: When testings come, where do we turn for help?

Answer: God's Word.

Question: When do we mean business most in prayer?

Answer: When the pressure is great and the heart is heavy. Jesus Christ is far more precious when we've been through trials, and watched Him deliver us as we trust Him.

"I walked a mile with **pleasure**,
She chatted all the way,
But not a thing I learned from her,
For all she had to say.

I walked a mile with **sorrow**,
And not a word said she,
But oh, the things I learned from her,
When sorrow walked with me."

Question: When have you learned the most?

Answer: When sorrows came.

Question: How are we going to know that we have a God who is faithful?
Answer: By going through testings.
Question: How did Daniel know that he had a God who shut lion's mouths?
Answer: By experiencing the trial of it, and seeing God give the victory.

We need to **know** this
We need to say **with authority**
"God will bring you through.
I tested Him and He brought me through.
I'm convinced He can bring you through."

Question: Why did Job go through all that trouble?
Answer: To be an example for our learning. "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our **learning** that we through **patience** and **comfort** of the Scriptures might have **hope**." Romans 15:4.

Trials are to teach us that we might be convinced of the kind of God we have.

- e) **Chastening.** "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth." Hebrews 12:6.
God corrects and trains us.
The results of chastening are:
- i) We give God reverence. "Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?" Hebrews 12:9.
 - ii) Our profit. So we become holy. "For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure: but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness." Hebrews 12:10.
 - iii) Peace and righteousness. "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." Hebrews 12:11.

Unless God puts His finger on some matter needing correcting, we need not assume that some suffering is chastening. God allows problems even when we are in the middle of His will.

f) **To minister to others.**

Question: How does God prepare us to minister to others?
Answer: "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in **all our tribulation** that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." II Corinthians 1:3,4.

Where are you going to get comfort from: God or man? **Comfort** means to strengthen others with the same strength that strengthens us in our need.

Note: If you point people to anyone but Christ, you haven't properly comforted them. God comforts us, not just to make us comfortable, but to make us comforters. The same hand that puts us in the oven controls the heat and the timing also. Sometimes God wants to bring us to **yield to Him** and **allow** Him to have His way.
Then the sooner we submit to God, the sooner the trial can be removed.

CONCLUSION:
Being convinced that God knows, God cares, God is able, and that God has a purpose; how do I apply this to my need? **HOW?**

Don't just pray about it, but give the problem to the Lord.
"Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you." I Peter 5:7.

All events are permitted by God.

Realise that:

- a) God has a **perfect plan** for my life.
- b) As I **allow** Christ to **takeover** my life, He's going to bring me through hard places and sunny places.
- c) In either case I'm going to **thank** Him.
God told Paul, "My grace is **sufficient for you**."

Paul's conclusion in all suffering was:

"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:11-13.

Job, Elijah, Paul and others learned that God is sufficient in our testings. Sometimes we must be brought to a place where Christ is **all we have** so that we might discover that Christ is **all we need**. Have you reached this point?