

God's Purposes in Trials - Endurance

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God's Sovereignty in Trials

Every trial in your life is either designed directly by God or contained under His immediate supervision and control.

1 Corinthians 10:13 NASB

"No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape (*ekbasis - an egress, way out, exit*) also, so that you will be able to endure it."

Psalm 27:5-6 NASB

5 For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; In the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock.

6 And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me, And I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.

Psalm 5:11-12 NASB

11 But let all who take refuge in You be glad, Let them ever sing for joy; And may You shelter them, That those who love Your name may exult in You.

12 For it is You who blesses the righteous man, O LORD, You surround him with favor as with a shield.

Psalm 32:7 NASB

7 You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah.

Psalm 32:10 NASB

10 Many are the sorrows of the wicked, But he who trusts in the LORD, lovingkindness shall surround him.

Acts 7:54-60 NASB

54 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they began gnashing their teeth at him.

55 But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God;

56 and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

57 But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse.

58 When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"

60 Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.

God's Purposes: Testing Our Obedience

- True, intrinsic quality is always tested under stress and pressure, never at rest.
- The test of our obedience is not salvation by works, trying to earn or merit our salvation by acts of obedience.
- The test of our obedience is proving by demonstration the genuineness of our faith.
- The genuineness of our faith is demonstrated by holding and living the profession of our faith firm to the very end, no matter what the cost.
- When we finish our course and keep the faith to the end, it's not by our own efforts or striving, it's only and all by the faith which God birthed in us. To God be the glory!

Deuteronomy 8:2 NASB

2 "You shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, **that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.**"

Genesis 22:1-3 NASB

1 Now it came about after these things, that **God tested Abraham**, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

2 He said, "**Take now your son, your only son, whom you love**, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and **offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.**"

3 **So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey**, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

James 1:12 NASB

12 Blessed is a man who **perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.**

Revelation 2:10 NASB

10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, **so that you will be tested**, and you will have tribulation for ten days. **Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.**

1 Peter 1:6-8 NASB

6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,

7 **so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;**

8 **and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,**

If we pass the test when tried in this life, we can't take any glory. The faith which enables us to pass the test is a gift of God. Passing the test has nothing to do with self-determination or self-righteousness.

Hebrews 3:6 NASB

6 but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house--whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.

Hebrews 3:12 NASB

12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.

13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,

15 while it is said, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME."

16 For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses?

17 And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness?

18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient?

19 So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.

Hebrews 6:4-8 NASB

4 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit,

5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,

6 and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.

7 For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God;

8 but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.

God's Purposes: Strengthening Our Endurance

James 1:2-4 NASB

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 NASB

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

You don't have to finish with flawless perfection, but you do have to finish in faith.

Requirements for endurance (*which God exercises in trials*):

- **Fixing your eyes on Jesus.**

Hebrews 12:1-3 NASB

1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

- **Surrendering to God's Lordship and sovereignty.**

Jeremiah 18:3-6 NASB

3 Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something on the wheel.

4 But the vessel that he was making of clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter; so he remade it into another vessel, as it pleased the potter to make.

5 Then the word of the LORD came to me saying,

6 "Can I not, O house of Israel, deal with you as this potter does?" declares the LORD. "Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel.

- **Learning how to draw on God's strength.**

Isaiah 40:29-31 NASB

29 He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power.

30 Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly,

31 Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.

- **Learning how to draw on God's peace.**

Isaiah 26:3 ESV

3 You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

Philippians 4:6-7 ESV

6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- Learning to walk by faith to see beyond the circumstances.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NASB

16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,

18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.