

God's Purposes in Trials - Cleansing

June 15, 2017

Psalm 119:67 NASB

67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word.

Psalm 119:71 NASB

71 It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.

Suffering in trials provide the divine recipe of:

1. **Self-Knowledge** - *exposes what needs to be put to death in us*

Jeremiah 17:9-10 NASB

9 "The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; Who can understand it?"

10 "I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds."

Colossians 3:5-9 ESV

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming.

7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.

8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices.

Luke 22:33-34 NASB

33 But he [Peter] said to Him, "Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!"

34 And He said, "I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me."

Luke 22:61-62 NASB

61 The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times."

62 And he went out and wept bitterly.

Job 27:2 ESV

2 As God lives, who has taken away my right, and the Almighty, who has made my soul bitter...

Job 27:6 ESV

6 I hold fast my righteousness and will not let it go; my heart does not reproach me for any of my days.

Job 42:5-6 ESV

5 I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you;

6 therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

In every trial, ask two questions:

1. *What does this trial reveal about myself (my heart, my mind, my emotions, my passions...)*
2. *What does this trial reveal about my relationship with God?*

2. **Submission** - *the discipline of surrendering one's will to God's will in the circumstances*

When faced with circumstances beyond your control, you have options:

1. *Become angry, resentful and bitter towards God.*
2. *Become discouraged, depressed and give up.*
3. *Surrender to God's plan with a submissive heart and draw upon His grace.*

Luke 22:41-44 NASB

41 And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and began to pray,

42 saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done."

43 Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him.

44 And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.

Hebrews 5:8-9 NASB

8 Although He was a Son, He learned (*manthano - to learn by use and practice, accustomed to, understand*) obedience from the things which He suffered.

9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation.

1 Peter 4:1-2 NASB

1 Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

2 so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

"It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply." — [A.W. Tozer](#)

3. **Dependence** - *drawing on God's comfort and strength is practiced and exercised*

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 NASB

9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.