

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT "TRIALS"

1 PETER 1:6-7 / 1 Peter 4:12-13

Introduction: There are some things in the Bible we would just as soon it not be there. Things we don't like to talk about or even mention. But thank God He is always there when these things happen. I am talking about trials.

What is the difference in temptation and trials? I found a good explanation from **Alexander MacLaren**, in a sermon entitled *Faith Tested and Crowned*, distinguished between being tempted and being tested or tried. He said that *"the former word conveys the idea of appealing to the worst part of man, with the wish that he may yield and do the wrong. The latter means an appeal to the better part of man, with the desire that he should stand."*

Temptation says, *"Do this thing; do not be hindered by the fact that it is wrong."*

Trial says, *"Do this right and noble thing; do not be hindered by the fact that it is painful. The one is a sweet, beguiling melody, breathing soft indulgence and relaxation over the soul; the other is a peeling trumpet-call to high achievements."*

One of the great things about the Bible is that it speaks to and addresses the things we face in life. Our subject is trials, meaning the troubles and testings we face along life's way. **Job 14:1** says that man that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. **Job. 5:7** Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.

No one is exempt from troubles, not even Christians. In fact some trials come our way just because we are Christians. We have a personal enemy called the Devil who will see to it that God's people have problems. However, as God's people we also have the watchful, caring eye of our Heavenly Father upon us, not to keep us from troubles necessarily, but certainly to be with us in them.

1.The Reality Of Our Trials

verse 6 says *"ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations"*

- A. **The Difficulty-** the word *heaviness* suggests the sorrow or difficulty they bring to us. It suggests stress and speaks of a weight that causes us to fold.
- B. **The Diversity-** this is seen in the word *manifold*. Many and varied are the troubles of life.

2.The Regulation Of Our Trials

verse 6-7 has implications that our trials are regulated. There is someone who is at the controls of the trials.

- A. **The Time Is Regulated- v.6** says *"though now for a season"* the length or duration of our trial is under the care of our Lord
- B. **The Temperature Is Regulated- v.7** says *"as gold tried in the fire"* the goldsmith will not let the precious gold be subjected to more than it can stand, neither will our God allow us to be tempted/tested with more than we can stand.

3. -The Rarity Of The Trial

1 Peter 4:12 *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:*

- A. **The Particular Trial.... vs. 12** which is to try **YOU. ... FIERY (purosis)**
- B. **The Positive Of The Trial- 1 Peter 4:13** *But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.*

4. -The Rejoicing Of Our Trials

verse 6-7 teaches us there are some things to rejoice about even in our trials.

- A. **Earthly Rejoicing-**we can rejoice now in that our trials grow us and make us more mature, as the fire removes the impurities from the gold.
- B. **Eternal Rejoicing-** one day all of our trials and troubles will be behind us forever when we get home to heaven.

A Midwest couple were having problems and then things got worse. We've all been there to some degree. We can feel like the man who said, "It is always the darkest just before it goes completely black!"...Well, first the man lost his job and then a few days later his wife lost her job. Their savings used up quickly and then their septic tank caved in. The man had no money to hire a company to fix the problem, so he went out in the back yard and began digging. It was back breaking work and he wasn't sure that he knew what he was doing. He just kept digging....Then, suddenly, his shovel his something. He dug a little more and he saw something unusual. He used his hands to pull it out and discovered seventy-five pieces of gold. It was apparently gold that had been

buried by a miner around the time of the 1849 gold rush. The stash was worth up to \$1.5 million dollars.

When troubles surround you as a child of God, start digging. Dig down inside yourself. Pray and dig! Down there somewhere is a promise and a provision. He never leaves His own. Stay close to Him, talk to Him and continue to serve Him. He will not fail you! If He doesn't deliver you from the problem, He will take you through it. If He doesn't remove it from you, He will move you above it. That is what He did with Habakkuk and He still has some room on the mountain for us! Whether in this life or the next, we will day stand on the mountain with the Lord and sing, "Worthy is the Lamb."

"I have observed the power of the watermelon seed. It has the power of drawing from the ground and through itself 200,000 times its weight. When you can tell me how it takes this material and out of it colors an outside surface beyond the imitation of art, and then forms inside of it a white rind and within that again a red heart, thickly inlaid with black seeds, each one of which in turn is capable of drawing through itself 200,000 times its weight-when you can explain to me the mystery of a watermelon, you can ask me to explain the mystery of God."

William Jennings Bryan (1860-1925)