

Adversity

[James 1:2 HCSB](#) Consider it a great joy, my brothers, whenever you experience various trials,

Introduction

A. We all encounter trouble

- [Job 5:7 HCSB](#) But mankind is born for trouble as surely as sparks fly upward.

B. Life is full of trouble

- [Job 14:1 HCSB](#) Man born of woman is short of days and full of trouble.

I. Why God allows adversity

A. It brings Him glory

- [John 9:1-3 HCSB](#) As He was passing by, He saw a man blind from birth. **2** His disciples questioned Him: "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" **3** "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," Jesus answered. "*This came about so that God's works might be displayed in him.*"
- [John 11:1-4 HCSB](#) Now a man was sick, Lazarus, from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. **2** Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, and it was her brother Lazarus who was sick. **3** So the sisters sent a message to Him: "Lord, the one You love is sick." **4** When Jesus heard it, He said, "*This sickness will not end in death but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.*"
- [John 21:19 HCSB](#) He said this to signify by what kind of death he would glorify God. After saying this, He told him, "**Follow Me!**"

B. It develops humility

- [Deuteronomy 8:16 HCSB](#) He fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers had not known, in order to humble and test you, so that in the end He might cause you to prosper.

C. It prevents pride

- [2 Corinthians 12:7 HCSB](#) **7** especially because of the extraordinary revelations. Therefore, so that I would not exalt myself, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to torment me so I would not exalt myself.

D. Sometimes it's His discipline

- [1 Corinthians 11:32 HCSB](#) **32** but when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord, so that we may not be condemned with the world.
- [Hebrews 12:5 HCSB](#) And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons: **My son, do not take the Lord's discipline lightly, or faint when you are reproved by Him;**

E. It drives us to the Word

- [Psalms 119:71 HCSB](#) It was good for me to be afflicted so that I could learn Your statutes.

F. It keeps us from straying

- [Psalms 57:10 HCSB](#) For Your faithful love is as high as the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.
- [Ezekiel 14:11 HCSB](#) in order that the house of Israel may no longer stray from following Me and no longer defile themselves with all their transgressions. Then they will be My people and I will be their God." *This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.*

- **1 Peter 5:10 HCSB** Now the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will personally restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little.
- G. It makes us more fruitful
- **John 15:2 HCSB** Every branch in Me that does not produce fruit He removes, and He prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit.

II. What not to do

- A. Don't be discouraged if God is disciplining you.
- **Proverbs 3:11-12 HCSB** Do not despise the LORD's instruction, my son, and do not loathe His discipline; **12** for the LORD disciplines the one He loves, just as a father, the son he delights in.
 - **Hebrews 12:5-6 HCSB** And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons: **My son, do not take the Lord's discipline lightly, or faint when you are reprovved by Him; 6 for the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and punishes every son whom He receives.**
- B. Don't be dismayed.
- **Isaiah 41:10 HCSB** Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with My righteous right hand.
- C. Don't be troubled – trust Christ.
- **John 14:1 HCSB** "Your heart must not be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me.
- D. Don't worry – the Lord will fight for you.
- **Exodus 14:13-14 HCSB** But Moses said to the people, "Don't be afraid. Stand firm and see the LORD's salvation He will provide for you today; for the Egyptians you see today, you will never see again. **14** The LORD will fight for you; you must be quiet."

III. What to do

- A. Cast all your anxiety on God.
- **Psalms 55:22 HCSB** Cast your burden on the LORD, and He will support you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.
 - **1 Peter 5:7 HCSB** casting all your care upon Him, because He cares about you.
- B. Go boldly to the throne of grace.
- **Hebrews 4:16 HCSB** Therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us at the proper time.
- C. Share in Christ's sufferings
- **Romans 8:17 HCSB** and if children, also heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ--seeing that we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.
- D. Take courage.
- **James 5:8 HCSB** You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, because the Lord's coming is near.
- E. Trust Christ, your High Priest.

- [Hebrews 4:15 HCSB](#) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tested in every way as we are, yet without sin.
- F. Trust in God in times of trouble.
- [Psalms 50:15 HCSB](#) Call on Me in a day of trouble; I will rescue you, and you will honor Me."

IV. What Christ does

- A. Gives rest
- [Matthew 11:28 HCSB](#) "Come to Me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
- B. Helps us in temptation
- [Hebrews 2:18 HCSB](#) For since He Himself was tested and has suffered, He is able to help those who are tested.

V. What God does

- A. Brings consolation
- [Lamentations 3:32 HCSB](#) Even if He causes suffering, He will show compassion according to His abundant, faithful love.
- B. Brings good out of evil
- [Genesis 50:20 HCSB](#) You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result--the survival of many people.
 - [Romans 8:28 HCSB](#) We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God: those who are called according to His purpose.
 - [Philippians 1:12 HCSB](#) Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has actually resulted in the advancement of the gospel,
- C. Encourages
- [2 Corinthians 7:6 HCSB](#) But God, who comforts the humble, comforted us by the coming of Titus,
- D. Gives rest to the weary
- [Jeremiah 31:25 HCSB](#) for I satisfy the thirsty person and feed all those who are weak."
- E. Heals the broken hearted
- [Psalms 147:3 HCSB](#) He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.
- F. The God of all comfort helps us
- [2 Corinthians 1:3, 7 HCSB](#) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. **7** And our hope for you is firm, because we know that as you share in the sufferings, so you will share in the comfort.
- G. He helps in times of trouble
- [Psalms 46:1 HCSB](#) For the choir director. A song of the sons of Korah. According to Alamoth. God is our refuge and strength, a helper who is always found in times of trouble.
- H. He is our refuge
- [Deuteronomy 33:27 HCSB](#) The God of old is *your* dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He drives out the enemy before you, and commands, "Destroy!"
 - [Psalms 9:9 HCSB](#) The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

- I. He is our shepherd
 - **Psalms 23:1-6 HCSB** A Davidic psalm. The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack. **2** He lets me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. **3** He renews my life; He leads me along the right paths for His name's sake. **4** Even when I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff--they comfort me. **5** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. **6** Only goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD as long as I live.
- J. He preserves
 - **Psalms 138:7 HCSB** If I walk in the thick of danger, You will preserve my life from the anger of my enemies. You will extend Your hand; Your right hand will save me.
- K. He strengthens the weak
 - **Isaiah 40:29 HCSB** He gives strength to the weary and strengthens the powerless.
- L. He turns mourning into joy
 - **Jeremiah 31:13 HCSB** Then the virgin will rejoice with dancing, while young and old men *rejoice* together. I will turn their mourning into joy, give them consolation, and *bring* happiness out of grief.
- M. His strength will make up for our weakness
 - **2 Corinthians 12:9 HCSB 9** But He said to me, "**My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.**" Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may reside in me.

VI. What the Holy Spirit does

Helps us

- **John 14:16-17 HCSB** **And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. 17 He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive Him because it doesn't see Him or know Him. But you do know Him, because He remains with you and will be in you.**

VII. Promises

- A. Trials test our faith
 - **1 Peter 1:6-7 HCSB** You rejoice in this, though now for a short time you have had to be distressed by various trials **7** so that the genuineness of your faith--more valuable than gold, which perishes though refined by fire--may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- B. Suffering can be good for you.
 - **Psalms 119:71 HCSB** It was good for me to be afflicted so that I could learn Your statutes.
 1. Produces glory in us
 - **2 Cor. 4:17 2 Corinthians 4:17 HCSB** For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory.
 2. Proves our character
 - **Dt. 8:2 Deuteronomy 8:2 HCSB** Remember that the LORD your God led you on the entire journey these 40 years in the wilderness, so

that He might humble you and test you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep His commands.

3. Purifies us
 - [Psalms 66:10 HCSB](#) For You, God, tested us; You refined us as silver is refined.
 - [Isaiah 1:25 HCSB](#) I will turn My hand against you and will burn away your dross completely; I will remove all your impurities.
4. Tests our faith
 - [1 Peter 1:7 HCSB](#) so that the genuineness of your faith--more valuable than gold, which perishes though refined by fire--may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
5. Builds endurance
 - [Romans 5:3-4 HCSB](#) And not only that, but we also rejoice in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, 4 endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope.
- C. The Lord is our helper
 - [Hebrews 13:6 HCSB](#) Therefore, we may boldly say: **The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?**
- D. Our present troubles are insignificant in view of our future glory
 - [2 Corinthians 4:17 HCSB 17](#) For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory.
- E. We may be pressed but we will not be crushed.
 - [2 Corinthians 4:8 HCSB](#) We are pressured in every way but not crushed; we are perplexed but not in despair;
- F. We will not drown in deep rivers.
 - [Isaiah 43:2 HCSB](#) I will be with you when you pass through the waters, and *when you pass* through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you. You will not be scorched when you walk through the fire, and the flame will not burn you.