Trials that Bind

James 1:1-6

How many agree that the trials we experience and successfully go through draw us even closer to God when we place our faith in Him? *WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DON’T?*

Many times our faith in God grows when these trials are over.

It may just be that if we pray for more faith we may be asking for more trials. More faith may equal more trials; more trials may equal more faith, which in turn equals a more spiritually mature Christian.

BOTTOM LINE: Christians will grow through trials!

*One man said,*– "Contrary to popular belief, not all trials are bad."

LOOKING TO THE SCRIPTURES, HOW CAN TRIALS BE FOR OUR OWN GOOD?

1) TRIALS THAT BIND US TO CHRIST AND BUILD FAITH

1Pet. 1:6,7 -- In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

In these verses, we must realize that our faith, just like gold, will be purified by fire. Gold is purified when it is heated over fire. This causes all the impurities to float to the top and it can be easily raked off.

How is our faith purified? A believer’s faith is purified when trials cause our impurities to be brought to the top and cast aside.

Paul single-handedly took the Gospel of Christ to the Roman Empire in his lifetime. No one else has equaled that performance since.

JESUS SAID TO ANANIAS ABOUT PAUL – Acts 9:15,16 – But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: 16 For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

**NOTICE**: *He must suffer for my name's sake*.

It might be real hard to develop a positive attitude when you’re being shown how much you will suffer.

\*Here’s the point – *a believer can develop some degree of faith through learning about the Biblical heroes of faith.*

\**But strong faith is learned by personal experiences under trial! We must go through the fire!*

2) TRIALS THAT BIND US TO CHRIST AND KEEP US   FROM PRIDE

Scriptures say that some trials keep us from falling into pride.

Pride was the original sin that caused Lucifer to fall and become Satan.

THINK ABOUT IT – Lucifer was an archangel and a worshiper before pride. In other words he was Lucifer, and now he is Satan.

LUCIFER, His name is found one time in the bible. Is. 14:12 – How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

LUCIFER – in the sense of brightness; the morning-star

SATAN – The accuser, an opponent: the arch-enemy of good, the adversary,

Pride is the sin that God says He hates above all others.

2 Cor. 12:7-10 -- But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.  
For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;  
To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;  
To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

Paul was going through a trial. Some say, Paul was experiencing humility.

Paul had three specific prayer sessions to take the thorn away but God would not grant it. Paul had an affliction, but God was using it for a greater purpose. WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE?

Church we may be missing a greater blessing in an affliction, simply because we refuse to accept God’s purpose on it.

3) TRIALS THAT BIND US TO CHRIST AND CAUSE GROWTH

James 1:2-4 -- My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;  
Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.  
But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Another translation – Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,  
because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.  
Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Heb. 12:1,2 -- Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,  
Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

ENDURANCE – the ability to stand pain, distress, fatigue, and hardship.

This is what Jesus went through.

God wants distance runners not sprinters. Although some Christians are like sprinters, they believe that Lord for a short while in a quick burst of faith and then fall apart.

God wants people who keep on believing and waiting upon Him even though the trials persist.

This is what develops true maturity; this is what is meant by going the distance.

4) TRIALS THAT BIND US TO CHRIST AND TECH US OBEDIENCE

Heb. 5:7,8 -- Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;  
Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

Not every one will go through the trials that the disciples did and certainly now what Jesus did, but there is still a principle involved.

*HERE’S THE POINT*– The principle is, the greater the mission, the greater the need for training in obedience and discipline!

God wants to strengthen our personal discipline and faith so we can withstand the attacks of Satan.

5) TRIALS THAT PREVENT US FROM FALLING INTO SIN

God knows that we have certain areas of weakness that make us vulnerable to particular temptations.

Sometimes He allows trials into our lives to prevent us from falling into sin.

1 Pet. 4:1,2 -- Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;  
That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

Suffering directed by the loving hand of God prevents us from being unprotected to our areas of weakness. Suffering encourages us to pursed God’s will for our lives, because it takes our mind off of the trivial things of this life and focuses it on the things of God.

When you suffer the most you seek God the most, because God is the only one who can bring you through it.

6) TRIALS THAT PROVE THE REALITY OF CHRIST IN US

The supernatural life of Christ lived out through a Christian is manifested, when through faith, he or she undergoes trials with an attitude of praise and inner joy, not negativism.

The Apostle Paul explained it so well when he wrote and told us how the treasure of Christ’s life in him was lived out in his experiences.

2 Cor. 4:7-11 -- But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.  
We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;  
Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;  
Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.  
For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

So what is the point to this reality of Christ in us? The point is, Christ’s life is most clearly revealed to the world through our supernatural response to our trials and tribulations.

CON – ALL EYES ARE ON US

A person cannot fake Jesus being in their heart. When the pressure is on, people will watch to see how we will react. What they see should be a reflection of Christ and Christ counted it a joy to suffer for our sins, so should we not consider it a joy to suffer for His name sake.

We must remember daily that we are called and sent by God. We must act like it. If we don’t, people may die and go to hell because of it!