

"Hard Times"

Romans 5:3-5

Paul understood the benefits of difficulty. When trouble comes, we often feel like GOD has abandoned us, or that HE is disappointed in us, or that we have missed HIS Will. Adversity can mean just the opposite.

Some reasons why we have adversity:

1. We live in a _____. Genesis 3
* Nothing will ever be _____ in this life. Mt. 13:24-30
2. We all have flawed _____. Romans 3:23
3. We all make foolish _____ at times. Gal. 5:16-17
4. _____ people make foolish decisions, that impact us. 2 Sam. 12:7-13
5. We have _____ that hates us. John 10:10
6. We have _____ that loves us. Heb. 12:10 For Believers trials work _____, not against us.

GOD's Purposes in allowing Hardship to come your way:

1. You will have tribulation _____ your entire life. **V.3**
Receiving CHRIST does not mean that _____ the trials of this life. John 16:33.
 - A. Tribulation ("thilipsis") means _____; like being pushed through a _____ space, that hems you in, that _____ you, that leaves you without _____.
 - B. The Heavenly Father knows just _____ pressure you can take, and _____ you can take it. 1 Cor. 10:13, Job 1-2
Don't ever say, _____ - IF you say it, you _____ be able to. James 3:4
2. GOD wants us to get to the place of spiritual _____, that we can "_____ in our tribulations."
 - A. To glory in something is to express _____ in GOD in the midst of affliction and adversity. 1 Thess. 5:18, Phil 4:4
 - B. We glory (_____, exult) in our tribulations because we _____. **V.3**

3. This is what GOD and Paul wanted us to know:

* Watch the _____.

- A.** "Tribulation produces _____," ("hypomone") – This word means to _____; and _____ while under.
 1. It implies _____, it means to develop inner strength

and _____, and resilience.

2. Without adversity, a Follower of CHRIST will never _____ toughness and strength, which makes them _____ in the Kingdom. The _____ the Call on a person's life, usually means the _____ the road they must walk.

B. "Perseverance produces proven (_____) character," V.4
Mt. 5:3-12, Gal. 5:22-23

1. Our English word, tribulation, comes from a Latin word, "tribulum." In Paul's day, a tribulum was a heavy _____ with spikes in it. The tribulum was dragged over harvested _____, in order to separate the _____ from the _____. Get it?
2. How do we learn _____? Love? _____? Obedience? Get Stronger? Suffering and hardship _____ Christian character.

C. "Proven character produces _____," Biblical Hope is a confident _____ of good things. It is an anticipation of the _____, and of a favorable _____. Rom. 8:24-25
"And hope does not disappoint," **V.5** (Know why?) Rom. 8:31-32
- Because you learn that HE _____.

- D. "Because the _____ has been poured out, within our hearts." (where?)**
1. Trials are designed to bring us _____ to the LORD, not push us away. But it is a _____ that we make.
 2. As we _____ near to HIM during times of adversity, and HE _____ us by HIS powerful Hand, we _____ HIS unlimited compassion and mercy. We _____ afresh that HE is for us, and can always be _____, even when we do not understand. This causes us to _____ our GOD more and more.

- E. "Through the _____, WHO was given to us."**
1. WHO makes this possible? Our _____, Our Comforter Our Leader, Our _____, Our Strengtheners, and the ONE who _____ us like CHRIST.
 2. As the Holy Spirit transforms us by the _____ of GOD, the same Supernatural Love is poured out into the _____.
 3. Our adversity turns out to be a huge _____ in reaching others.

**The hardest things end up becoming the
most precious things to us.**

