"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Jesus in John 16:33

Prayer Study #510

THE PURPOSE OF TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS

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Sources of Trials and Tribuations

1. **The Enemy**: **Job 1:12**: *And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.* John 10:10: ***"The thief does not come except to steal and to kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly."***
2. **The Flesh Nature**: **Romans 2:9**: *…tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek.*
3. **The Father God**: **Deuteronomy 4:33-34**: *Did any people ever hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard and live? Or did God ever try to go and take for Himself a nation from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?*
4. **Through others**: **Acts 20:18-19**: *And when they had come to him, he said to them, "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews.*

Purposes: Why does the Lord allow trials and tribulations?

1. **To test our faith: Genesis 22:1-18** *And it came to pass after these things, that God did test Abraham and said unto him, "Abraham," and he said, "Behold, here I am." And He said, Take not thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah, and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of." And Abraham rose up early in the morning and saddled his ass and took two of his young men with*

him and Isaac, his son, and cut the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up and went into the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said unto his young men, "Abide ye here with the ass, and I and the lad will go yonder and worship and come again to you." And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it upon Isaac his son, and he took the fire in his hand and a knife, and they went both of them together. And Isaac spoke unto Abraham his father and said, "My father," and he said, "Here am I, my son." And he said, "Behold the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering." So they went both of them together. And they came to the place which God had told him of, and Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac, his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham, and he said, "Here am I." And he said, "Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him, for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. And Abraham called the name of the place, Jehovah Jireh, as it is said, to this day, " In the mount of the Lord, it shall be seen. And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time and said, "By Myself have I sworn," saith the Lord, "for because thou hast done this thing and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son, that in blessing I will bless thee and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is upon the seashore, and thy seed shall possess the gates of his enemies. And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because thy hast obeyed my voice."

2. **To purify us and our faith: Malachi 3:3** *And he shall sit like a refiner and purifier of silver, and he shall purify the sons of Levi and purge them like gold and silver that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.* **1st Peter 1:6-9** *In this ye greatly rejoice though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold trials, that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might*

be found unto praise and honor and glory at the coming of Jesus Christ, Whom, having not seen, ye love; in Whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

3. **To increase our patience: James 1:3-4** *Knowing this, that the testing of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work that ye may be perfect and entire, lacking nothing.*
4. **To chasten us because He is the Father and we are the child: Isaiah 48:10** *Behold I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.* **Hebrews 12:6** *For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.* **Hebrews 12:6 NCV** *The Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punished everyone He accepts as His child.*
5. **To baptize us in His suffering and thus to glorify the Lord: 1st Peter 4:12-16** *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to test you, as though some strange thing happened unto you. 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. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye, for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you; on their part He is evil spoken of, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or as a thief or as an evildoer or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet, if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed but let him glorify God on this behalf.*
6. **To bring us to a better place: Psalm 66:10-12** *For thou, O God, hast tested us; thou hast tried us as silver is tried. Thou broughtest us into the net; thou hast laidst affliction upon our loins. Thou hast caused men to rise over our heads; we went through fire and through water, but thou brought us out into a wealthy place.* **Acts 14:21-22:** *And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."*
7. **To grow us up and make us strong: James 1:2-4:** *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*

Our Proper Reaction To

1. We should count it all joy! James 1:2 *Count it all joy when ye fall into various trials, knowing this that the testing of your faith worketh patience.*

2. We should recognize that all testing has a purpose and His grace really is sufficient. 1st Corinthians 12:7-10 *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And He said unto me, "My grace is sufficient for thee, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore, I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake, for when I am weak, then am I strong.*

3. We should expect it. 2nd Timothy 3:12 *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.* **Luke 6:48-49** *He is like a man who built an house and dug deep and laid the foundation on a rock, and when a flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon the house and could not shake it, for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth and doeth not, is like a man that, without a foundation, built an house upon the earth, against which the stream did beat vehemently and immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.*

4. We should be confident that the Lord will deliver us in due time. 2nd Timothy 3:10-11 *But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, long-suffering, love, patience, persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra, what persecutions I endured, but out of them all the Lord delivered me.*

"Blessings"
Laura Story

Usage of azlyrics.com content by any third-party lyrics provider is prohibited by our licensing agreement. Sorry about that. We pray for blessings, we pray for peace
Comfort for family, protection while we sleep
We pray for healing, for prosperity
We pray for Your mighty hand to ease our suffering
And all the while, You hear each spoken need
Yet love is way too much to give us lesser things

'Cause what if your blessings come through rain drops
What if Your healing comes through tears
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near
What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise

We pray for wisdom, Your voice to hear
We cry in anger when we cannot feel You near
We doubt your goodness, we doubt your love
As if every promise from Your word is not enough
And all the while, You hear each desperate plea
And long that we'd have faith to believe

'Cause what if your blessings come through rain drops
What if Your healing comes through tears
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near
What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise

When friends betray us
When darkness seems to win
We know that pain reminds this heart
That this is not,
This is not our home
It's not our home

'Cause what if your blessings come through rain drops
What if Your healing comes through tears
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near

What if my greatest disappointments or the aching of this life
Is the revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy
What if trials of this life
The rain, the storms, the hardest nights
Are your mercies in disguise

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