## The Value of Trials

## "2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." (James 1:2-4 KJV)

No one is happy or would be happy if he would pass through trials, because trials it means pain and suffering. But what Apostle James said here, "2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;" (James 1:2 KJV) Why to consider it all joy in passing through trials? Because through trials God is achieving to us good things and as the following:

1. We may come to know God through trials: Man use to live and grow up depending on himself and on other people who are around him and in his atmosphere. Even when he faces problems he is depending on himself and the people around him to solve these problems. But a time will come and God will allow that a hard trial and certain problem will pass through the person's life and that he would try his best and will use all what is in his hand to solve it but all that will not be effective to solve it. Then this is the time man will realize his inadequacy and inability to manage his life depending on himself or on others. Then this is the time he will search and turn toward God and toward the cross of Jesus and will give his life and surrender it to God. Man will do that when trials knock him down. The birth process is painful when pregnant women go into labor. Also to be born from God or born again is painful moment when man passes through hard trials and painful experience when he comes to realize that he needs God to help him to pass through, and then this is the moment that he will invite Jesus into his life and will be born again by the Spirit of God.

2. We draw near to God through trials trusting God alone: Even to us who are born again trials would help us to draw near to God and become closer unto him. Trials teach us to trust more in God and in His mighty power. The Word of God tells us the following: "5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6 KJV) Even to us who trust God we may still rely on certain resources or talents that God had given to us. Or we might be still relying on certain friends or figures who are near to us and who show interest in our affairs. \* We may get deviated and put our trust on such things, therefore through trials God would show us that even these good resources that we have and are from God, and even those good people who want to help they cannot, therefore we really need to rely fully on God. \* Trials teach us to fully trust God and not to rely on our own minds setup, the way we think and our own understanding.

**3.** *Trials teaches us to pray and fast:* \* We as Christians use to pray but trials teaches us to pray more, to pray persistently, continually, to pray earnestly, to kneel down and to shed tears at Jesus' feet and cry unto God. \* Trials teach us to humble down and when we face trials we fast; humbling ourselves before God through prayer and fasting asking Him to intervene and solve the problem and stop the threats that is advancing toward us.

4. Trials help us to repent: When we face trials some of them are to lead us to repentance. Some of them are due to the consequences of our sins, "Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you." (Jeremiah 5:25 KJV) Or some trials are due to God discipline to correct us and bring us into the right way, "7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons." (Hebrews 12:7-8 KJV) \* Therefore God will allow trials and will use them as discipline for us and a rebuke to bring us to repentance and back to God. \* The Lord will also allow that we will carry the consequences of our sins and that is painful but that would give us clear decision and clear mind not to repeat that again.

5. Trials show us the glory of God and the power of God Almighty: As what Jesus said to Martha before He raised up her brother Lazarus from death, for she was thinking that his body already had a smell, "40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?" (John 11:40 KJV) and truly Jesus proceeded and raised him from death. In trials God will deal with our problems in certain ways that are beyond our imagination and what we think off. For example when the people of God were advancing toward the Red Sea fleeing from the army of Pharaoh they were in between two problems, how to cross the Red Sea and how to escape the army of Pharaoh. The people were afraid but Moses encouraged them, "13 And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. 14 The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace." (Exodus 14:13-14 KJV) We are also now encouraged with the Word of God that the Lord will help us and will fight for us our battle. It would never in the people's mind or understanding that God would divide the Red Sea and the people will cross on a dry land and walls of water on their both sides.

How the people pass through the Red Sea on dry land? The Lord allowed a strong wind to pass over to divide the water and turned it into dry land. "21 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. 22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. 23 And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. 24 And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, 25 And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians." (Exodus 14:21-25 KJV) God can turn the trials that you are passing through and change its course of it for your behalf in a way beyond your understanding and beyond your imagination. God brought a strong east wind on them which divided the Red Sea and made them move forward escaping the army of Pharaoh. They had previously two problems, the Red Sea and the army of Pharaoh, and God sent them a third problem, which was the wind, that solved the first two problems. Certain times you are already in certain troubles but God will come and allow another problem that will solve the rest of your problems as He did here. Not only that but He will turn the battle for you and gives you great victory over your enemy as you trust Him as He did with the Israelites as we read here. "26 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. 27 And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. 28 And the waters returned, and covered the chariots,

and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them." (Exodus 14:26-28 KJV)

God's ways are not man's ways and His thoughts are different than our thoughts as He had said, "8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8-9 KJV) Let us continue to meditate to find out why it is a real joy to pass through various trials and how trials and problems can be a source of blessings to you.

6. Through trials we learn to trust God and to trust His Word and His promises in the Bible: When Jesus was tempted the devil asked Him, "3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." (Matthew 4:3 KJV) Jesus at that time was hungry and He can change the stone to bread, but this is not what God had ordained and provide for us in His Word. Jesus would disobey God if He would do that, but He trusted God and trusted His Word that the Lord will provide for Him to live and that is why He answered the devil with the following: "4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4 KJV) Trials would teaches us that in time of need and trouble we don't need to steal, cheat or tell lies in order for us to live. But trials would teach us to trust God and His Word in the Bible that He will provide for us and will help us and sustain us.

7. Through trials our faith in God and on His promises increases and well established: Certain trials require from us certain impossible or extraordinary things to do or achieve in order for us to obey God's Word and His commands. When God called Abraham to offer to Him his one and only son Isaac, Abraham obeyed God because he trusted God's Word and promise, up to the point that God can raise Isaac from the dead: "17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: 19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure." (Hebrews 11:17-19 KJV) When Abraham went on to offer his son, his son Isaac asked him, "7 And Isaac spake 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? 8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together." (Genesis 22:7-8 KJV) That shows that Abraham had full trust in God's promises, and that trial or test confirmed to Abraham that God is faithful and all His promises are true. Trials and tests that God would allow to pass in our lives will confirm to us that God is true to all His promises and it encourage us to follow God and walk in all His ways trusting all His promises that He will provide for us after we obey Him to live the life that He wants us to live. As God provided for Abraham the ram for a sacrifice the Lord gave us Jesus to save us from sins and in Him we have eternal life.

8. Trials test our faith: Certain people they worship God as long as He is giving them material things, but the same people may go away from God when trials or troubles come to their lives. God would correct the faith of those people through trials. Through trials God would teach us that we ought to worship Him not only during the good circumstances but He wants us to continue to worship Him and serve Him even in times of troubles. Job when was afflicted by devil and loss his children, his belongings and even his health, his wife told him

the following: "9 Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die." " (Job 2:9 KJV) But he answered her and rebuked her as the following: "10 But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips." (Job 2:10 KJV) God allowed trials to bring us to the sound faith that it says, "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;" (Philippians 1:29 KJV) Trials teach us that as Christ suffered and died on the cross to save us from our sins, we too live our lives and suffer for Him in order that His love will reach others and got save, "And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again." (2 Corinthians 5:15 KJV)

9. Trials teach us to persevere and to have patient: "3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience." (James 1:3 KJV) Trials are the painful and the difficult times that we may pass through. But in trials God would impart to us certain things that we would not have or receive without trials. Trials teach us to be more patient and persevering to keep our achievements to the responsibilities that God ordained and entrusted to us. Easy to achieve if we don't have trials but more difficult to persevere in keeping same level of achievements and commitments in trials. In trials God is developing in us patient and perseverance. And God would allow certain trials and hardships to continue in our lives till we achieve and maintain that patient and perseverance that God wants to see in our lives.

10. Trials bring us to maturity: "4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." (James 1:4 KJV) \* Trials would teach us and develop in us new beautiful things and more fruit of the Holy Spirit. \* Trials it show that God would use not the strong points that we have but God would use our weak points. \* Trials would teach us that there is nothing impossible with God. \* Trials would perfect us and make us lack nothing. \* Trials that God would allow all of us to pass through would teach us to have more experience and to be more trained and equipped to handle and carry different challenges and hardships. \* Trials are equipping factor for us for the future. \* As God would help us to pass one hurdle that would be a good asset for us to face further challenges in the future. \* Through trials God will correct and strengthen our attitudes and characters and help us to be well trained to face different hardship and emergencies in the future. \* God through trials would teach us warfare and how to fight our enemy, the devil and all its demons and be able to manage and handle its schemes.

11. God might disclose His good plan for you through trials: Certain times you pass through displeasing and unwanted situations. You cannot even explain it or understand why you are passing through all that. But later on when trials are finished and you are standing on a firm ground you look at the past and understand that without the trials that you had passed through you will not be in the place that God wants you to be. Certain trials God allow in your life so that you will take a certain decision that will bring you where God wants you to be.

My Dear and Beloved: The Lord Jesus said, "33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33 KJV) Trials and troubles we cannot avoid, we have to pass through; they are part of God's calling for us. But we have the victory in Jesus and what He had done on the cross for us. We need to trust Him fully and trust His Word and walk in His ways. "12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." (James 1:12 KJV) There is purpose for each and every trial that God would allow in our lives. We need to persevere and respond to them in the precise way that God wants us to behave so that God's purpose in our lives would be achieved.

Let us pray ...

**My Prayer:** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your message and your Word that clarified to me and answered lot of my questions; that gives me assurance and built me in the right way and impart to me clear understanding. Lord strengthen me, help me to trust you more in times of trials, to persevere and to walk in your ways. Lord let all the trials that I am passing through would equip me to do your will and achieve your purpose and your good plan for my life.

Repent and renounce your sins. Lord I confess and renounce the following sins

Lord help me to pass this trial in my life \_\_\_\_\_\_.

Lord I pray for my brethren who repented, who came back to you and those who are passing trials. Lord help them and solve their problems, and use all these trials that they are passing through to bring them to repentance, to have a genuine faith in you, to be willing to suffer for you, to be mature and perfect and lack nothing, and to enable them to pursue the good plan that you have for them.

Lord we pray that you bless us as a church, and enable us to pass victoriously through sufferings and trials. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit once again and give us the spiritual gifts to go on and serve you successfully and victoriously through all the trials that you are allowing us to pass through. Lord go before us and help us to plant new congregations and new Bible studies and achieve your purpose and your plan in our lives even during the time of trials. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God', Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

The Values of Trials: James 1:2-4. Proverbs 3:5-6. Jeremiah 5:25. Hebrews 12:7-8. John 11:40. Exodus 14:13-14, 21-28. Isaiah 55:8-9. Matthew 4:3-4. Hebrews 11:17-19. Genesis 22:7-8. Job 2:9-10. Philippians 1:29. 2 Corinthians 5:15. John 16:33. James 1:12.

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