

## DON'T WASTE YOUR TRIALS

### PART 4

#### 1 PETER 1:3-9

#### Introduction

We've been looking at the subject of "Don't Waste Your Trials."

We said that even we who rejoice in Christ, suffer grief from all kinds of trials and tribulations in this life just as much, if not more so, than those who don't know Christ.

First, we looked at –THE DESIGN OF OUR TRIALS and we said:

I. WE WASTE OUR TRIALS WHEN WE DON'T SEE THEM AS BEING DESIGNED BY GOD FOR US!

II. WE WASTE OUR TRIALS WHEN WE DON'T SEE THEM AS BEING DESIGNED BY GOD FOR HIS GLORY!

Then we saw how that:

III. WE WASTE OUR TRIALS WHEN WE VIEW THEM AS A CURSE AND NOT AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR BLESSING!

A. We Can View Our Trials As A Curse And Cause Ourselves And Others Heartaches. OR

B. We Can View Our Trials As An Opportunity For Blessing And Bring About Blessing To Ourselves And To Others.

If Joseph's attitude had been wrong, he would have missed out on the opportunity to become a blessing. But, Joseph's attitude was that God sent him to Egypt for a reason.

If Paul and Silas had displayed a bad attitude in the midst of their trial, they might have missed the opportunity to be a blessing to the Philippian jailor and his family.

IV. WE WASTE OUR TRIALS WHEN WE TRY TO HANDLE THEM OURSELVES RATHER THAN LEAN ON GOD'S GRACE!

(2 Chronicles 16 – King Asa)

We saw how that King Asa had an opportunity to showcase God and His glory, but instead, he tried to handle his own problems.

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V. WE WASTE OUR TRIALS WHEN WE ALLOW THEM TO GET OUR FOCUS ON OURSELVES OR OUR PROBLEMS RATHER THAN ON GOD!

A. Ten Of Twelve Spies And Israel Focused On Themselves And Their Problems Rather Than God! (Numbers 13, 14)

B. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego Focused On God Rather Than Their Problems! (Daniel 3:12-18)

When we are in the midst of trials, it is important that our focus be on God and not on ourselves or our problems!

VI. WE WASTE OUR TRIALS WHEN WE SEEK COMFORT FROM EVERYWHERE ELSE BUT THE LORD!

In 1 Peter 5:6-7, the Lord invites us to humble ourselves before Him so that He can lift us up and He invites us to cast all of our care upon Him!

This morning we wrap up this thought of "Don't Waste Your Trials!"

VII. WE WASTE OUR TRIALS WHEN WE PUSH THE LORD OFF RATHER THAN EMBRACE HIM!

A. King Asa pushed the Lord off! (2 Chronicles 16:10)

We've already read where King Asa pushed God off and it cost him.

He got mad with the man of God who delivered the message of rebuke.

He oppressed some of the people the at the same time.  
(2 Chronicles 16:10)

2 Chronicles 16:12–“And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians.”

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#### B. King Hezekiah embraced the Lord!

1. When Sennacherib threatened King Hezekiah, he embraced the LORD! (2 Chronicles 32:1-23)
2. When Hezekiah faced death, he embraced the LORD! (2 Kings 20:1-7)

Now understand that we shouldn't wait for trials to come before we embrace the Lord! But, when troubles do come our way, that's no reason to push the Lord off! In fact, that is the time when we need to embrace the Lord even more! That's because He is the God of all comfort and all grace!

#### VIII. WE WASTE OUR TRIALS WHEN WE ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE CONTROLLED BY OUR FEARS INSTEAD OF OUR FAITH!

*2 Timothy 1:7—“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”*

A. Abraham. (Genesis 12:7-13)

B. Elijah. (Compare 1 Kings 18 vs. 1 Kings 19.)

#### IX. WE WASTE OUR TRIALS WHEN WE FAIL TO VIEW THEM IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY! (2 Corinthians 4:17 - 5:2)

*2 Corinthians 4:17-18—“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”*

*2 Corinthians 5:1-2—“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:”*

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*Job 19:25-27—“For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: 26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: 27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.”*

#### X. WE WASTE OUR TRIALS WHEN WE FAIL TO USE OUR EXPERIENCES TO HELP OTHERS WHO FIND THEMSELVES IN DIFFICULT TRIALS! (2 Corinthians 1:3-6; Psalm 34:1-6)

*Psalms 66:16—“Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul.”*

*1 Thessalonians 5:11—Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.*

God's desire is to comfort others through us!

#### Conclusion

Are you going through some trials right now? How are you responding? Or maybe you've already gone through some trials? What was your response to those trials?

Did they cause you to push the Lord off or did they cause you to embrace Him more? Were you then or are you now controlled by your fears rather than by your faith in God?

Are you seeing the big picture and viewing your trials in light of eternity? Understand that I'm not making light of your trials in any way, but rather I want you to see them in the proper perspective. The time you spend in your trials is so insignificant when compared to eternity!

Are you using the experience of your trials to help others who find themselves in difficult trials?

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If not, you may be missing out on a wonderful opportunity to glorify God through all your trials!

#### **Remember, if we respond rightly to our trials:**

Trials can correct us.

Trials can call us. (That is, to call us back close to God.)

Trials can carry us. (That is, they serve as a transition in our lives.)

Trials can change us. (In a good way.)

Trials can conform us. (Into the image of Christ.)

#### **If we respond wrongly to our trials:**

Trials can change us. (In a bad way.)

Trials can control us. (Where all we do is focus on our trials.)

Trials can corrupt us. (If we turn our backs on God.)

Trials can callous us. (Cause us to harden our hearts toward God.)

Don't waste your trials!

Maybe you've not faced a trial lately. But in this life one could easily come today, tomorrow, or in the not too distant future.

Are you prepared to handle it in a way that will honor God?

Let me tell you that if you don't know God you are not ready for the trials that this life can throw at you.

Remember what Job said, "*Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.*"

Why don't you come to the Lord Jesus Christ today so that you can have someone to cast your care upon when the troublesome time come?