

**IF NEED BE...**

**HOW GOD LEADS THROUGH TRIALS**



# 1 PETER 1:3-9

THINKING THROUGH THIS PASSAGE USING 5 WORDS

- 1) FAITH (VS 3-5)
- 2) GRIEF (VS 6)
- 3) FIRE (VS 7)
- 4) JESUS (VS 8)
- 5) ETERNITY (VS 9)

# FAITH WILL GUARD YOU

## GOD IS GOOD, EVEN WHEN LIFE IS BAD

- PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 – OUR HEARTS AND MINDS ARE VERY VULNERABLE
- ISAIAH 23:6
- ISAIAH 43:1-3 – HOW DO YOU PICTURE VERSE 2 PLAYING OUT IN REAL LIFE?

# GRIEF WILL OVERWHELM YOU

## IT'S NORMAL TO HURT

- PSALM 88 / LAMENTATIONS 3 / JOB 3

WE TEND TO RESPOND TO OVERWHELMING GRIEF IN ONE OF THREE WAYS

1) FALLING APART

2) SHUTTING DOWN

3) CRYING OUT

# **FIRE WILL TRY YOU**

## **GROWTH IS OFTEN PAINFUL**

- JOB 23:10
- DEUTERONOMY 8 (PARTICULARLY VS 2)
  - WHO WILL YOU SEEK TO EXALT
  - WHO WILL YOU TRUST OR BELIEVE?
  - WHO WILL YOU OBEY?
  - WHERE WILL YOU SEEK REFUGE AND COMFORT?

# CHRIST WILL SUSTAIN YOU


## YOU ARE NOT ALONE

- HEB. 2:17-18, HEB. 4:15-16
- JER. 17:5-8
- IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU, IT'S ABOUT HIM
- IT'S NOT ABOUT YOUR STRENGTH, BUT HIS STRENGTH IN YOU
- IT'S NOT ABOUT YOUR FAITHFULNESS, BUT HIS



# **ETERNITY WILL DEFINE YOU**

**YOU ARE NOT YET, WHAT YOU WILL BE...**

- 2 COR 4:8-18
  - 1 JOHN 3:2
- 



"That's all well and good, but what's the practical application for it?"



# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SUFFER WELL?

- DOES SUFFERING WELL MEAN YOU ENDURE THE TRIAL WITHOUT SINNING?
- SUFFERING WELL MEANS YOU WALK WITH JESUS, DEPENDING AND LEANING ON HIM, AS YOU ENDURE YOUR TRIAL.
  - IT'S NOT THAT YOU DON'T SIN, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU SIN.
  - IT'S NOT ABOUT THE STRENGTH OF YOUR PERFORMANCE, BUT RESTING IN THE STRENGTH OF A FAITHFUL GOD.

# WHAT IF I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT?

- INITIALLY, IT IS OK – JOB 2:13
- EVENTUALLY, YOU NEED TO ALLOW SOMEONE TO HELP BEAR YOUR BURDEN(S) – GALATIANS 6:2

# WHAT IF MY FRIEND DOESN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT?

- IT'S OK TO JUST BE PRESENT - "I AM WITH YOU" –JOB 2:13
- ROMANS 12:15 - WEEP WITH THOSE WHO WEEP
- PRAY APPROPRIATELY FOR AND WITH YOUR FRIEND
  - THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO SET THE RECORD FOR YOUR LONGEST PRAYER
- YOU WANT TO SLOWLY ENCOURAGE THEM TO EMBRACE GALATIANS 6:2

# COMMON QUESTIONS WITH WHICH SUFFERERS OFTEN STRUGGLE


- **FAITH** - GOD IS GOOD WHEN LIFE IS BAD
- **GRIEF** – IT'S NORMAL TO HURT
- **FIRE** – GROWTH IS OFTEN PAINFUL
- **JESUS** – YOU ARE NOT ALONE
- **ETERNITY** – YOU ARE NOT YET, WHAT YOU WILL BE


# WHERE IS GOD?

- **FAITH** - GOD IS GOOD WHEN LIFE IS BAD
- **GRIEF** – IT'S NORMAL TO HURT
- **FIRE** – GROWTH IS OFTEN PAINFUL
- **JESUS** – YOU ARE NOT ALONE
- **ETERNITY** – YOU ARE NOT YET, WHAT YOU WILL BE




# WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?

- **FAITH** - GOD IS GOOD WHEN LIFE IS BAD
  - **GRIEF** – IT'S NORMAL TO HURT
  - **FIRE** – GROWTH IS OFTEN PAINFUL
  - **JESUS** – YOU ARE NOT ALONE
  - **ETERNITY** – YOU ARE NOT YET, WHAT YOU WILL BE
- 



# IS IT OK TO WISH THIS WEREN'T HAPPENING?

- **FAITH** - GOD IS GOOD WHEN LIFE IS BAD
  - **GRIEF** – IT'S NORMAL TO HURT
  - **FIRE** – GROWTH IS OFTEN PAINFUL
  - **JESUS** – YOU ARE NOT ALONE
  - **ETERNITY** – YOU ARE NOT YET, WHAT YOU WILL BE
- 

# HOW LONG, OH LORD, HOW LONG...

PSALM 13:1-2

- **FAITH** - GOD IS GOOD WHEN LIFE IS BAD
- **GRIEF** – IT'S NORMAL TO HURT
- **FIRE** – GROWTH IS OFTEN PAINFUL
- **JESUS** – YOU ARE NOT ALONE
- **ETERNITY** – YOU ARE NOT YET, WHAT YOU WILL BE




# WHAT IS GOD DOING?

- **FAITH** - GOD IS GOOD WHEN LIFE IS BAD
- **GRIEF** – IT'S NORMAL TO HURT
- **FIRE** – GROWTH IS OFTEN PAINFUL
- **JESUS** – YOU ARE NOT ALONE
- **ETERNITY** – YOU ARE NOT YET, WHAT YOU WILL BE




# WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME?

- **FAITH** - GOD IS GOOD WHEN LIFE IS BAD
  - **GRIEF** – IT'S NORMAL TO HURT
  - **FIRE** – GROWTH IS OFTEN PAINFUL
  - **JESUS** – YOU ARE NOT ALONE
  - **ETERNITY** – YOU ARE NOT YET, WHAT YOU WILL BE
- 



# I WISH I WERE STRONGER...

- **FAITH** - GOD IS GOOD WHEN LIFE IS BAD
  - **GRIEF** – IT'S NORMAL TO HURT
  - **FIRE** – GROWTH IS OFTEN PAINFUL
  - **JESUS** – YOU ARE NOT ALONE
  - **ETERNITY** – YOU ARE NOT YET, WHAT YOU WILL BE
- 

# IS IT OK TO BE WEAK?


- **FAITH** - GOD IS GOOD WHEN LIFE IS BAD
- **GRIEF** – IT'S NORMAL TO HURT
- **FIRE** – GROWTH IS OFTEN PAINFUL
- **JESUS** – YOU ARE NOT ALONE
- **ETERNITY** – YOU ARE NOT YET, WHAT YOU WILL BE

# IS IT A SIGN OF SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY TO HURT?

- **FAITH** - GOD IS GOOD WHEN LIFE IS BAD
- **GRIEF** – IT'S NORMAL TO HURT
- **FIRE** – GROWTH IS OFTEN PAINFUL
- **JESUS** – YOU ARE NOT ALONE
- **ETERNITY** – YOU ARE NOT YET, WHAT YOU WILL BE




# IS IT WRONG TO BE SAD?

- **FAITH** - GOD IS GOOD WHEN LIFE IS BAD
  - **GRIEF** – IT'S NORMAL TO HURT
  - **FIRE** – GROWTH IS OFTEN PAINFUL
  - **JESUS** – YOU ARE NOT ALONE
  - **ETERNITY** – YOU ARE NOT YET, WHAT YOU WILL BE
- 



I TRY TO REMIND MYSELF OF ROMANS 8:28,  
BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE HELPING...

- **TRY ROMANS 8:26-27**
  - AND IN THE SAME WAY THE SPIRIT IS A HELP TO OUR FEEBLE HEARTS: FOR WE ARE NOT ABLE TO MAKE PRAYER TO GOD IN THE RIGHT WAY; BUT THE SPIRIT PUTS OUR DESIRES INTO WORDS WHICH ARE NOT IN OUR POWER TO SAY (BIBLE IN BASIC ENGLISH)
  - MAKING PRAYER OUT OF OUR WORDLESS SIGHS, OUR ACHING GROANS. (THE MESSAGE)
- 

# BE STILL MY SOUL

- BE STILL MY SOUL, THE LORD IS ON THY SIDE - **FAITH**
- BEAR PATIENTLY THE CROSS OF GRIEF OR PAIN - **GRIEF**
- LEAVE TO THY GOD, TO ORDER AND PROVIDE - **FIRE**
- IN EVERY CHANGE, HE FAITHFUL WILL REMAIN - **JESUS**
- BE STILL MY SOUL, THY BEST THY HEAVENLY FRIEND, THROUGH THORNY WAYS, LEADS TO A JOYFUL END - **ETERNITY**