

And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear call, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? 1st Corinthians 14:8 NLV

First Love Ministries, Inc

PRAYER STUDY #134

Trials and Tribulations: The Testing of the Lord

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 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: 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 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.

What should our attitude be toward trials and tribulations?

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.*

There's Something About that Name
William and Gloria Gaither

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus;
There's something about that name.
Master, Savior, Jesus-
Like the fragrance after the rain.
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus;
Let all Heaven and earth proclaim;
Kings and kingdoms will all pass away,
But there's something about the name.

*The mere mention of His name can calm the storm, heal the broken, raise the dead. At the name of JESUS, I've seen sin-hardened men melted, derelicts transformed, the lights of hope put in the eyes of a hopeless child.... At the name of JESUS, hatred and bitterness turn to love and forgiveness; arguments cease. I've heard a mother softly breathe HIS name at the bedside of a child delirious from fever, and I've watched as the little body grew quiet and the fevered brow cool. I've sat beside a dying saint, her body wracked with pain, when those final fleeting seconds summoned her last ounce of ebbing strength to whisper earth's sweetest name:
"JESUS, JESUS...."*

Emperors have tried to destroy it; philosophies have tried to stamp it out. Tyrants have tried to wash it from the face of the earth with the very blood of those who claimed it. Yet it still stands. And there shall be that final day when every voice that has ever uttered a sound-every voice of Adam's race-shall rise in one mighty chorus to proclaim the name of JESUS, for on that day every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that

JESUS CHRIST

Is truly LORD!

So, you see, it was not mere chance that caused an angel one night long ago to say to a virgin maiden, "His name shall be called JESUS."

JESUS. JESUS.

Oh, there is something-something about that name.