

## RESPONDING BIBLICALLY TO TRIALS

*Pastor Rick Reager*

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*“<sup>33</sup> I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.” John 16:33*

### I. WHAT IS THE BIBLICAL APPROACH TO WORKING THROUGH TRIALS?

#### 1. EMBRACE THEM AS AN \_\_\_\_\_

*“<sup>2</sup> Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.” James 1:2*

### II. WHAT DO TRIALS DO FOR ME?

#### 1. THEY PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE \_\_\_\_\_ BY GOD

*“<sup>3</sup> All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. <sup>4</sup> He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.” 2 Corinthians 1:3-4*

#### 2. THEY PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO \_\_\_\_\_

*“<sup>2</sup> Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. <sup>3</sup> For you know that when your faith is tested...” James 1:2*

#### 3. THEY PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO \_\_\_\_\_

*“<sup>2</sup> Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. <sup>3</sup> For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. <sup>4</sup> So let it grow...” James 1:2-4*

#### 4. THEY PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR \_\_\_\_\_

*“<sup>4</sup> So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.” James 1:2-4*

#### 5. THEY PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR \_\_\_\_\_

*“<sup>7</sup> These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.” 1 Peter 1:7*

### III. HOW CAN I SEIZE ALL OPPORTUNITIES THAT TRIALS PROVIDE?

#### 1. REGARDLESS OF THE TRIAL, CHOOSE \_\_\_\_\_ ... \_\_\_\_\_

*“<sup>33</sup> I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.” John 16:33*

*“<sup>2</sup> Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.” James 1:2*

**KEY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Through It**

*“<sup>1</sup> I will praise the LORD at all times. I will constantly speak his praises.” Psalm 34:1*

**2. REMEMBER GOD'S \_\_\_\_\_**

*"<sup>17</sup> O Sovereign LORD ! You made the heavens and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for you!" Jeremiah 32:17*

*"<sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. <sup>30</sup> And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." Matthew 10:29-31*

*"<sup>28</sup> And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." Romans 8:28*

**3. TRUST THAT GOD \_\_\_\_\_**

*"<sup>8</sup> My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. <sup>9</sup> For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9*

**NOTE: When The Trials Are Experienced By Others In Our Sphere Of Influence, Trust That God**

\_\_\_\_\_ **& Is** \_\_\_\_\_

**KEY: Provide What I \_\_\_\_\_ And \_\_\_\_\_ For The Rest**

*"<sup>27</sup> Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them. <sup>28</sup> If you can help your neighbor now, don't say, "Come back tomorrow, and then I'll help you." Proverbs 3:27-28*

**4. PRESS INTO GOD FOR \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, &**

*"<sup>3</sup> All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. <sup>4</sup> He comforts us in all our troubles..." 2 Corinthians 1:3-4*

*"<sup>31</sup> But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31*

*"<sup>26</sup> And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. <sup>27</sup> And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will." Romans 8:26-27*

*"<sup>6</sup> Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. <sup>7</sup> If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7*

*"<sup>5</sup> If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking." James 1:5*

**Ask God:**

**i. Help Me See The Situation \_\_\_\_\_**

**ii. Is There Something You Want Me \_\_\_\_\_?**

**iii. Is This A \_\_\_\_\_?**

## 5. ASK GOD IF \_\_\_\_\_ CAUSING THE TRIAL

*“<sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. <sup>24</sup> Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.” Psalms 139:23-24*

### TRIALS CAN BE:

#### i. CAUSED BY MY \_\_\_\_\_

*“<sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” Galatians 6:7*

#### ii. GOD’S \_\_\_\_\_

*“<sup>5</sup> And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, “My child, don’t make light of the Lord’s discipline, and don’t give up when he corrects you. <sup>6</sup> For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.” <sup>7</sup> As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? <sup>8</sup> If God doesn’t discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. <sup>9</sup> Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn’t we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever?” Hebrews 12:5-9*

#### iii. ALLOWED BY GOD TO \_\_\_\_\_

*“<sup>10</sup> For God can use sorrow in our lives to help us turn away from sin and seek salvation. We will never regret that kind of sorrow.” 2 Corinthians 7:10*

## 6. ASK GOD HOW I SHOULD \_\_\_\_\_

*“<sup>15</sup> So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. <sup>16</sup> Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. <sup>17</sup> Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.” Ephesians 5:15-17*

## 7. REFUSE TO BE \_\_\_\_\_

*“<sup>5</sup> Those who obey him will not be punished. Those who are wise will find a time and a way to do what is right, <sup>6</sup> for there is a time and a way for everything, even when a person is in trouble.” Ecclesiastes 8:5-6*

*“<sup>31</sup> “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. <sup>33</sup> Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” Matthew 6:31-33*

*“<sup>10</sup> For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” Ephesians 2:10*

*“<sup>8</sup> When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.... <sup>16</sup> You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.” John 15:8-16*

### KEY: Remember, This \_\_\_\_\_

*“<sup>17</sup> For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! <sup>18</sup> So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.” 2 Corinthians 4:17-18*

## 8. STAY ALERT AND LOOK FOR THE \_\_\_\_\_

*“<sup>28</sup> And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” Romans 8:28*

**KEY: Whether I See It Or Not, \_\_\_\_\_ Through The Whole Thing**  
*“<sup>18</sup> Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”*  
*1 Thessalonians 5:18*