

# Trials. The good. The bad. The wonderful.

What is the Christian's response when we go through trials?

Are Christians even supposed to go through trials?

When trials come, do we feel as if God has deserted us?

Do we *turn away from* God during trials or *run* to Him?

Do we believe God is sovereign?

Do we see trials as possible discipline from God?

Do we see trial as opportunities to grow in character and to draw closer to God?

Do we see trials as a way to minister to others in need?

Do we see our trials as an opportunity for God to bring glory to Himself?

All Christians *will* face trials on this earth. Just because we are God's children does not mean we will not go through difficult times.

*"Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver;  
I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.  
- Isaiah 48:10*

## 1. Rain. It's effects on sand and the rock.

The word says followers of Jesus and non-believers will have difficult times on the earth.

Matthew 7:21-27 <sup>21</sup> "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' <sup>23</sup> "And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness. <sup>24</sup> **"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock.** <sup>25</sup> "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock. <sup>26</sup> "And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. <sup>27</sup> "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall."

Who is speaking?

Who is Jesus speaking to?

Who will the rain, floods and winds come against?

What is the difference between the foolish man and the wise man?

## 2. God tested the children of Israel in the wilderness for 40 years.

Deuteronomy 8:1-10 <sup>1</sup> "All the commandments that I am commanding you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to give to your forefathers. <sup>2</sup> **"And you shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.** <sup>3</sup> **"And He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.** <sup>4</sup> "Your clothing did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. <sup>5</sup> "Thus you are to know in your heart that **the LORD your God was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son.** <sup>6</sup> "Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him. <sup>7</sup> "For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills; <sup>8</sup> a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; <sup>9</sup> a land where you shall eat food without scarcity, in which you shall not lack anything; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. <sup>10</sup> **"When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.**

Who is speaking?  
Who is Moses speaking to?  
Why did God lead the children of Israel through the wilderness for forty years?  
How were the children of God to respond to God?

### 3. In one day, Job loses his children and his possessions.

Job 1:13-22 <sup>13</sup> Now it happened on the day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, <sup>14</sup> that a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, <sup>15</sup> and the Sabeans attacked and took them. They also slew the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." <sup>16</sup> While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you." <sup>17</sup> While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three bands and made a raid on the camels and took them and slew the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you." <sup>18</sup> While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, <sup>19</sup> and behold, a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people and they died; and I alone have escaped to tell you."

<sup>20</sup> **Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped.** <sup>21</sup> **And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD."** <sup>22</sup> **Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.**

What happen to Job?  
What was his response?

### 4. The benefit of knowing the good Shepherd.

Psalms 23:0-6 <sup>0</sup> A Psalm of David. <sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. <sup>3</sup> He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me. <sup>5</sup> Thou dost prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; Thou hast anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and loving kindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Who is our shepherd?  
What does God, as our shepherd, do?

### 5. Joy in trials.

#### How are Christians called to respond when they encounter various trials?

James 1:1-8 <sup>1</sup> James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad, greetings. <sup>2</sup> **Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. <sup>4</sup> And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.** <sup>5</sup> But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, <sup>8</sup> being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Who is speaking?  
What does he tells us to do when we encounter various trials?  
Why does the testing of our faith produce?  
What can we ask God for?  
How does God give to those who ask for wisdom?

### 6. Jesus tells the disciples they will have tribulation in the world.

John 16: 33 "These things I have spoken to you, **that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.**"

Who is speaking?  
What does Jesus tell his disciples?

### 7. Again and again and again. God revives us from troubles and distresses. Praise God!

Psalms 71:17-24 <sup>17</sup> O God, Thou hast taught me from my youth; And I still declare Thy wondrous deeds. <sup>18</sup> And even when I am old and gray, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Thy strength to this generation, Thy power to all who are to come. <sup>19</sup> For Thy righteousness, O God, reaches to the heavens, Thou who hast done great things; O God, who is like Thee? <sup>20</sup> **Thou, who hast shown me many troubles and distresses, Wilt revive me again, And wilt bring me up again from the depths of the earth.** <sup>21</sup> Mayest Thou increase my greatness, And turn to comfort me. <sup>22</sup> I will also praise Thee with a harp, Even Thy truth, O my God; To Thee I will sing praises with the lyre, O Thou Holy One of Israel. <sup>23</sup> My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to Thee; And my soul, which Thou hast redeemed. <sup>24</sup> My tongue also will utter Thy righteousness all day long; For they are ashamed, for they are humiliated who seek my hurt.

Who is speaking?  
Who has taught him from his youth?  
To whom did the psalmist wish to tell about the power of God?  
Had the psalmist seen many troubles and distresses?  
Did God revive Him?  
What response did the psalmist have to God?

### 8. Trouble. Affliction.

Psalms 120:1-4 <sup>1</sup> **In my trouble I cried to the LORD, And He answered me.**

Can we cry out to God in times of trouble?

Isaiah 48: 10 "Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

What work does God do with us during afflictions?

## 9. Affliction and God's law.

Psalm 119:92 If Thy law had not been my delight, Then I would have perished in my affliction.  
Why should we delight in God's Word?

## 10. Why do we go through afflictions?

2 Corinthians 1:1-11 <sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the church of God which is at Corinth with all the saints who are throughout Achaia: <sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup> **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.** <sup>5</sup> For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ. <sup>6</sup> But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer; <sup>7</sup> and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our comfort. <sup>8</sup> For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; <sup>9</sup> indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves in order that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; <sup>10</sup> who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us, <sup>11</sup> you also joining in helping us through your prayers, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed upon us through the prayers of many.

Who is speaking?

Did Paul go through any afflictions?

Who comforts us during our afflictions?

What could a reason be for us going through affliction? (Verse 4)

## 11. The parable of the sower speaks about affliction.

Mark 4:10-20 <sup>10</sup> And as soon as He was alone, His followers, along with the twelve, began asking Him about the parables. <sup>11</sup> And He was saying to them, "To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God; but those who are outside get everything in parables, <sup>12</sup> in order that while seeing, they may see and not perceive; and while hearing, they may hear and not understand lest they return and be forgiven." <sup>13</sup> And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? And how will you understand all the parables? <sup>14</sup> "The sower sows the word. <sup>15</sup> "And these are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them. <sup>16</sup> "And in a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; <sup>17</sup> **and they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.** <sup>18</sup> "And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, <sup>19</sup> **and the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.** <sup>20</sup> "And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it, and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold."

Who is speaking?

Who is Jesus speaking to?

What does the seed the sower sow?

What happens to non-believers when affliction arises?

What three things can choke God's Word out? (Verse 19)

## 12. Paul says suffering produces perseverance. Perseverance yields character. Proven character yields hope. And hope does not disappoint.

Romans 5:1-11 <sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. **And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.** <sup>6</sup> You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! <sup>10</sup> For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! <sup>11</sup> Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Who is speaking?

In verse two what are we to rejoice in?

In verse three what are we to rejoice in?

Why?

What does suffering produce?

Does hope disappoint?

## 13. Praise, joy and refinement during trials. Does that make any sense?

1 Peter 1:3-9 <sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be **born again to a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> **who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.** <sup>6</sup> **In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, <sup>7</sup> that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; <sup>8</sup> and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, <sup>9</sup> obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.**

We are born again to what? (Verse 3)

Will our inheritance ever fade away? (Verse 4)

Who protects us? (Verse 5)

When we go through trials, why can we rejoice? (Verses 6-9)

#### 14. More refining.

Zechariah 13:7-9 <sup>7</sup> “Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, And against the man, My Associate,” Declares the LORD of hosts. “Strike the Shepherd that the sheep may be scattered; And I will turn My hand against the little ones. <sup>8</sup> “And it will come about in all the land,” Declares the LORD, “That two parts in it will be cut off and perish; But the third will be left in it. <sup>9</sup> “**And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are My people,’ And they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’”**

Who is speaking?

Why do we go through the testing process?

When we are tested who can we call on?

What does God promise to us when we call on His name?

#### 15. God always provides a way of escape out of temptation.

1 Corinthians 10:13 **No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.**

#### 16. Jesus tells us not to be anxious about our life. He says God knows our needs. He asks us to seek God’s kingdom first.

Matthew 6:25-34 <sup>25</sup> “For this reason I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, as to what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, as to what you shall put on. **Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing?** <sup>26</sup> “Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? <sup>27</sup> “And which of you by being anxious can add a single cubit to his life’s span? <sup>28</sup> “And why are you anxious about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one of these. <sup>30</sup> “But if God so arranges the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more do so for you, O men of little faith? <sup>31</sup> “**Do not be anxious then, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘With what shall we clothe ourselves?’** <sup>32</sup> “For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> “**But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.** <sup>34</sup> “**Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.**

Who is speaking?

Who takes care of the birds?

Are you more important to God than a bird?

Can worry add to our life span?

Who was a better dresser, the lilies or Solomon?

Should we be anxious? (Verse 31, verse 34)

What does God ask us to seek? (Verse 33)

#### 17. Jesus says God knows our needs before we even ask.

Matthew 6:7,8 <sup>7</sup> “And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition, as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. <sup>8</sup> “**Therefore do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him.**

Who is speaking?

Does God know our needs even before we ask Him?

#### 18. Supernatural peace is available when we take everything to Jesus in prayer.

Philippians 4:6,7 <sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> **And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

What can we bring to God in prayer?

What does He promise us?

#### 19. Nothing can separate you from God’s love. Nothing. Nada.

Romans 8:31-39 <sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring a charge against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies; <sup>34</sup> who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup> **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?** <sup>36</sup> Just as it is written, “For Thy sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” <sup>37</sup> But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In the long run, what is really important?

## How those in the Bible responded to trials.

#### 1. Daniel and his companions face certain death. Daniel and his friends seek God in prayer.

Daniel 2:1-23 <sup>1</sup> Now in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was troubled and his sleep left him. <sup>2</sup> Then the king gave orders to call in the magicians, the conjurers, the sorcerers and the Chaldeans, to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. <sup>3</sup> And the king said to them, “I had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to understand the dream.” <sup>4</sup> Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic: “O king, live forever! Tell the dream to your servants, and we will declare the interpretation.” <sup>5</sup> The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, “The command from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you will be torn limb from limb, and

your houses will be made a rubbish heap. <sup>6</sup> “But if you declare the dream and its interpretation, you will receive from me gifts and a reward and great honor; therefore declare to me the dream and its interpretation.” <sup>7</sup> They answered a second time and said, “Let the king tell the dream to his servants, and we will declare the interpretation.” <sup>8</sup> The king answered and said, “I know for certain that you are bargaining for time, inasmuch as you have seen that the command from me is firm, <sup>9</sup> that if you do not make the dream known to me, there is only one decree for you. For you have agreed together to speak lying and corrupt words before me until the situation is changed; therefore tell me the dream, that I may know that you can declare to me its interpretation.” <sup>10</sup> The Chaldeans answered the king and said, “There is not a man on earth who could declare the matter for the king, inasmuch as no great king or ruler has ever asked anything like this of any magician, conjurer or Chaldean. <sup>11</sup> “Moreover, the thing which the king demands is difficult, and there is no one else who could declare it to the king except gods, whose dwelling place is not with mortal flesh.” <sup>12</sup> Because of this the king became indignant and very furious, and gave orders to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. <sup>13</sup> So the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they looked for Daniel and his friends to kill them. <sup>14</sup> Then Daniel replied with discretion and discernment to Arioch, the captain of the king’s bodyguard, who had gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon; <sup>15</sup> he answered and said to Arioch, the king’s commander, “For what reason is the decree from the king so urgent?” Then Arioch informed Daniel about the matter. <sup>16</sup> So Daniel went in and requested of the king that he would give him time, in order that he might declare the interpretation to the king. <sup>17</sup> Then Daniel went to his house and informed his friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, about the matter, <sup>18</sup> **in order that they might request compassion from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his friends might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.** <sup>19</sup> Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. **Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven;** <sup>20</sup> Daniel answered and said, “Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, For wisdom and power belong to Him. <sup>21</sup> “And it is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men, And knowledge to men of understanding. <sup>22</sup> “It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, And the light dwells with Him. <sup>23</sup> “To Thee, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, For Thou hast given me wisdom and power; Even now Thou hast made known to me what we requested of Thee, For Thou hast made known to us the king’s matter.”

When faced with death, what did Daniel ask his friends to do?

What was the result?

## 2. Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego refined by fire — literally.

Daniel 3:13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in rage and anger gave orders to bring Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego; then these men were brought before the king. <sup>14</sup> Nebuchadnezzar responded and said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? <sup>15</sup> “Now if you are ready, at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, and bagpipe, and all kinds of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, very well. But if you will not worship, you will immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire; and what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?” <sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter. <sup>17</sup> **“If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. <sup>18</sup> **“But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”****

Daniel 3:19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with wrath, and his facial expression was altered toward Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. He answered by giving orders to heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. <sup>20</sup> And he commanded certain valiant warriors who were in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, in order to cast them into the furnace of blazing fire. <sup>21</sup> Then these men were tied up in their trousers, their coats, their caps and their other clothes, and were cast into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire. <sup>22</sup> For this reason, because the king’s command was urgent and the furnace had been made extremely hot, the flame of the fire slew those men who carried up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. <sup>23</sup> But these three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, fell into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire still tied up.

Daniel 3:24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astounded and stood up in haste; he responded and said to his high officials, “Was it not three men we cast bound into the midst of the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “Certainly, O king.” <sup>25</sup> He answered and said, “Look! I see four men loosed and walking about in the midst of the fire without harm, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods!” <sup>26</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the furnace of blazing fire; he responded and said, **“Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, come out, you servants of the Most High God, and come here!” Then Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego came out of the midst of the fire.** <sup>27</sup> And the satraps, the prefects, the governors and the king’s high officials gathered around and saw in regard to these men that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men nor was the hair of their head singed, nor were their trousers damaged, nor had the smell of fire even come upon them.

Daniel 3:28 Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king’s command, and yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God. <sup>29</sup> **“Therefore, I make a decree that any people, nation or tongue that speaks anything offensive against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego shall be torn limb from limb and their houses reduced to a rubbish heap, inasmuch as there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way.”** <sup>30</sup> Then the king caused Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego to prosper in the province of Babylon.

When faced with death, what did Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego tell Nebuchadnezzar? (Verses 17,18)

Who were they placing their faith in?

What happened to them?

## 3. Daniel thrown into the lion’s den. God is glorified.

Daniel 6:5-22 <sup>5</sup> Then these men said, “We shall not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find it against him with regard to the law of his God.” <sup>6</sup> Then these commissioners and satraps came by agreement to the king and spoke to him as follows: “King Darius, live forever! <sup>7</sup> “All the commissioners of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the high officials and the governors have consulted together that the king should establish a statute and enforce an injunction that anyone who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, shall be cast into the lions’ den. <sup>8</sup> “Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document so that it may not be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked.” <sup>9</sup> Therefore King Darius signed the document, that is, the injunction.

<sup>10</sup> **Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously.** <sup>11</sup> Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and supplication before his God. <sup>12</sup> Then they approached and spoke before the king about the king’s injunction, “Did you not sign an injunction that any man who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, is to be cast into the lions’ den?” The king answered and said, “The statement is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked.” <sup>13</sup> Then they answered and spoke before the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the injunction which you signed, but keeps making his petition three times a day.” <sup>14</sup> Then, as soon as the king heard this

statement, he was deeply distressed and set his mind on delivering Daniel; and even until sunset he kept exerting himself to rescue him. <sup>15</sup> Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, "Recognize, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or statute which the king establishes may be changed."

<sup>16</sup> Then the king gave orders, and Daniel was brought in and cast into the lions' den. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Your God whom you constantly serve will Himself deliver you." <sup>17</sup> And a stone was brought and laid over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing might be changed in regard to Daniel. <sup>18</sup> Then the king went off to his palace and spent the night fasting, and no entertainment was brought before him; and his sleep fled from him. <sup>19</sup> Then the king arose with the dawn, at the break of day, and went in haste to the lions' den. <sup>20</sup> And when he had come near the den to Daniel, he cried out with a troubled voice. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?" <sup>21</sup> Then Daniel spoke to the king, "O king, live forever! <sup>22</sup> **My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths,** and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime."

When faced with death, what did Daniel do?  
What was the result?

#### 4. Paul and Silas beaten then thrown in jail. Their prayers and praises yield amazing results.

Acts 16:19-34 <sup>19</sup> But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities, <sup>20</sup> and when they had brought them to the chief magistrates, they said, "These men are throwing our city into confusion, being Jews, <sup>21</sup> and are proclaiming customs which it is not lawful for us to accept or to observe, being Romans." <sup>22</sup> And the crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them, and proceeded to order them to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely; <sup>24</sup> and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison, and fastened their feet in the stocks. <sup>25</sup> **But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;** <sup>26</sup> **and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains were unfastened.** <sup>27</sup> And when the jailer had been roused out of sleep and had seen the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here!" <sup>29</sup> And he called for lights and rushed in and, trembling with fear, he fell down before Paul and Silas, <sup>30</sup> and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup> **And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household."** <sup>32</sup> **And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house.** <sup>33</sup> **And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household.** <sup>34</sup> **And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household.**

After being beaten with rods then thrown in jail, what did Paul and Silas do?  
What was the result?

#### 5. Jesus struggle with the call to the cross while in the garden at Gethsemane. He goes to God in prayer.

Matthew 26:36-46 <sup>36</sup> Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, "**Sit here while I go over there and pray.**" <sup>37</sup> And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed. <sup>38</sup> Then He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me." <sup>39</sup> And He went a little beyond them, and **fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as Thou wilt."** <sup>40</sup> And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour? <sup>41</sup> "Keep watching and praying, that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." <sup>42</sup> **He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Thy will be done."** <sup>43</sup> And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup> And He left them again, and went away and **prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more.** <sup>45</sup> Then He came to the disciples, and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup> "Arise, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!"

When faced with death by crucifixion, what did Jesus do?  
How many times did He pray to God?  
What were the results?

#### 6. Hezekiah is surrounded by an overwhelming enemy. He prays to God.

Isaiah 37:8-38 <sup>8</sup> Then Rabshakeh returned and found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah, for he had heard that the king had left Lachish. <sup>9</sup> When he heard them say concerning Tirhakah king of Cush, "He has come out to fight against you," and when he heard it he sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying, <sup>10</sup> **"Thus you shall say to Hezekiah king of Judah, 'Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you, saying, 'Jerusalem shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.'**" <sup>11</sup> "Behold, you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the lands, destroying them completely. So will you be spared? <sup>12</sup> "Did the gods of those nations which my fathers have destroyed deliver them, even Gozan and Haran and Rezeph and the sons of Eden who were in Telassar? <sup>13</sup> "Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, the king of the city of Sepharvaim, and of Hena and Ivvah?"

<sup>14</sup> Then Hezekiah took the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it, and he went up to the house of the LORD and spread it out before the LORD. <sup>15</sup> And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD saying, <sup>16</sup> **"O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, who art enthroned above the cherubim, Thou art the God, Thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. Thou hast made heaven and earth.** <sup>17</sup> **"Incline Thine ear, O LORD, and hear; open Thine eyes, O LORD, and see; and listen to all the words of Sennacherib, who sent them to reproach the living God.** <sup>18</sup> **"Truly, O LORD, the kings of Assyria have devastated all the countries and their lands, and have cast their gods into the fire, for they were not gods but the work of men's hands, wood and stone. So they have destroyed them.** <sup>20</sup> **"And now, O LORD our God, deliver us from his hand that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that Thou alone, LORD, art God."** <sup>21</sup> Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent word to Hezekiah, saying, **"Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Because you have prayed to Me about Sennacherib king of Assyria,** <sup>22</sup> this is the word that the LORD has spoken against him: "She has despised you and mocked you, The virgin daughter of Zion; She has shaken her head behind you, The daughter of Jerusalem! <sup>23</sup> "Whom have you reproached and blasphemed? And against whom have you raised your voice, And haughtily lifted up your eyes? Against the Holy One of Israel! <sup>24</sup> "Through your servants you have reproached the Lord, And you have said, 'With my many chariots I came up to the heights of the mountains, To the remotest parts of Lebanon; And I cut down its tall cedars and its choice cypresses. And I will go to its highest peak, its thickest forest. <sup>25</sup> 'I dug wells and drank waters, And with the sole of my feet I dried up All the rivers of Egypt.' <sup>26</sup> "Have you not heard? Long

ago I did it, From ancient times I planned it. Now I have brought it to pass, That you should turn fortified cities into ruinous heaps. <sup>27</sup> "Therefore their inhabitants were short of strength, They were dismayed and put to shame; They were as the vegetation of the field and as the green herb, As grass on the housetops is scorched before it is grown up. <sup>28</sup> "But I know your sitting down, And your going out and your coming in, And your raging against Me. <sup>29</sup> "Because of your raging against Me, And because your arrogance has come up to My ears, Therefore I will put My hook in your nose, And My bridle in your lips, And I will turn you back by the way which you came.

<sup>30</sup> "Then this shall be the sign for you: you shall eat this year what grows of itself, in the second year what springs from the same, and in the third year sow, reap, plant vineyards, and eat their fruit. <sup>31</sup> "And the surviving remnant of the house of Judah shall again take root downward and bear fruit upward. <sup>32</sup> "For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and out of Mount Zion survivors. The zeal of the LORD of hosts shall perform this." <sup>33</sup> "Therefore, thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, 'He shall not come to this city, or shoot an arrow there; neither shall he come before it with a shield, nor throw up a mound against it. <sup>34</sup> 'By the way that he came, by the same he shall return, and he shall not come to this city,' declares the LORD. <sup>35</sup> 'For I will defend this city to save it for My own sake and for My servant David's sake.'"

<sup>36</sup> **Then the angel of the LORD went out, and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians; and when men arose early in the morning, behold, all of these were dead.** <sup>37</sup> **So Sennacherib, king of Assyria, departed and returned home, and lived at Nineveh.** <sup>38</sup> And it came about as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons killed him with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Ararat. And Esarhaddon his son became king in his place.

What is the situation?

What does Sennacherib, the king of Assyria tell Hezekiah that God will try to do?

What does Hezekiah do when faced with surrender or death?

What is the result of his prayer? (Verse 21,36)

## 7. Elijah. The widow. Her son. God provides.

1 Kings 17:1-24 <sup>1</sup> Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, surely there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word." <sup>2</sup> And the word of the LORD came to him, saying, <sup>3</sup> "Go away from here and turn eastward, and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. <sup>4</sup> "And it shall be that you shall drink of the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to provide for you there." <sup>5</sup> So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and lived by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. <sup>6</sup> And the ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he would drink from the brook. <sup>7</sup> And it happened after a while, that the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land. <sup>8</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, <sup>9</sup> "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and stay there; behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." <sup>10</sup> So he arose and went to Zarephath, and when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks; and he called to her and said, "Please get me a little water in a jar, that I may drink." <sup>11</sup> And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a piece of bread in your hand." <sup>12</sup> But she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have no bread, only a handful of flour in the bowl and a little oil in the jar; and behold, I am gathering a few sticks that I may go in and prepare for me and my son, that we may eat it and die." <sup>13</sup> **Then Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go, do as you have said, but make me a little bread cake from it first, and bring it out to me, and afterward you may make one for yourself and for your son.** <sup>14</sup> **"For thus says the LORD God of Israel, "The bowl of flour shall not be exhausted, nor shall the jar of oil be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain on the face of the earth." <sup>15</sup> So she went and did according to the word of Elijah, and she and he and her household ate for many days.** <sup>16</sup> The bowl of flour was not exhausted nor did the jar of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke through Elijah.

<sup>17</sup> Now it came about after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became sick; and his sickness was so severe, that there was no breath left in him. <sup>18</sup> So she said to Elijah, "What do I have to do with you, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my iniquity to remembrance, and to put my son to death!" <sup>19</sup> And he said to her, "Give me your son." Then he took him from her bosom and carried him up to the upper room where he was living, and laid him on his own bed. <sup>20</sup> **And he called to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, hast Thou also brought calamity to the widow with whom I am staying, by causing her son to die?" <sup>21</sup> Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and called to the LORD, and said, "O LORD my God, I pray Thee, let this child's life return to him." <sup>22</sup> And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah, and the life of the child returned to him and he revived.** <sup>23</sup> And Elijah took the child, and brought him down from the upper room into the house and gave him to his mother; and Elijah said, "See, your son is alive." <sup>24</sup> Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth."

What is happening?

What does Elijah ask the widow woman do?

What happens when she makes him some bread with her last morsel of food?

What happens to her son when he dies?

## 8. A sick child. David fasts. The child dies. He worships God.

2 Samuel 12:15-20 <sup>15</sup> So Nathan went to his house. Then the LORD struck the child that Uriah's widow bore to David, so that he was very sick. <sup>16</sup> **David therefore inquired of God for the child; and David fasted and went and lay all night on the ground. <sup>17</sup> And the elders of his household stood beside him in order to raise him up from the ground, but he was unwilling and would not eat food with them. <sup>18</sup> Then it happened on the seventh day that the child died.** And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, "Behold, while the child was still alive, we spoke to him and he did not listen to our voice. How then can we tell him that the child is dead, since he might do himself harm!" <sup>19</sup> But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David perceived that the child was dead; so David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" And they said, "He is dead." <sup>20</sup> **So David arose from the ground, washed, anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he came into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he came to his own house, and when he requested, they set food before him and he ate.**

What did David do while his new born son was sick?

What did he do when his son died?

What can we learn from this story?

## 9. Job loses all, yet he chose to worship God and to bless God. He did not blame God.

Job 1:13-22 <sup>13</sup> Now it happened on the day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, <sup>14</sup> that a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, <sup>15</sup> and the Sabeans attacked and took them. They also slew the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." <sup>16</sup> While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you." <sup>17</sup> While he was still

speaking, another also came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three bands and made a raid on the camels and took them and slew the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you." <sup>18</sup> While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, <sup>19</sup> and behold, a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people and they died; and I alone have escaped to tell you."

<sup>20</sup> **Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped.** <sup>21</sup> **And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD."** <sup>22</sup> **Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.**

Job has a really bad day, what happens?

When he hears the news of his losses, what does he do and say?

## When going through a trial how can you respond?

*Don't pray when it rains if you don't pray when the sun shines.*  
— Satchel Paige

### The response of hope in trials.

Psalm 42:5-8 <sup>5</sup> **Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him For the help of His presence.** <sup>6</sup> O my God, my soul is in despair within me; Therefore I remember Thee from the land of the Jordan, And the peaks of Hermon, from Mount Mizar. <sup>7</sup> Deep calls to deep at the sound of Thy waterfalls; All Thy breakers and Thy waves have rolled over me. <sup>8</sup> The LORD will command His loving kindness in the daytime; And His song will be with me in the night, A prayer to the God of my life.

Psalm 42: 9-11 <sup>9</sup> I will say to God my rock, "Why hast Thou forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?" <sup>10</sup> As a shattering of my bones, my adversaries revile me, While they say to me all day long, "Where is your God?" <sup>11</sup> **Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance, and my God.**

### The response of faith in trials.

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

### The response of rejoicing in trials.

Romans 5:1-5 <sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

### The response of trust in trials.

Psalm 28:7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart exults, And with my song I shall thank Him.

Psalm 56:3,4 <sup>3</sup> When I am afraid, I will put my trust in Thee. <sup>4</sup> In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can mere man do to me?

Isaiah 26:4 "Trust in the LORD forever, For in GOD the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock.

### The response of praise in trials

Psalm 59:17 O my strength, I will sing praises to Thee; For God is my stronghold, the God who shows me lovingkindness.

Psalm 28:7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart exults, And with my song I shall thank Him.

Habakkuk 3:16 I heard and my inward parts trembled, At the sound my lips quivered. Decay enters my bones, And in my place I tremble. Because I must wait quietly for the day of distress, For the people to arise who will invade us. <sup>17</sup> Though the fig tree should not blossom, And there be no fruit on the vines, Though the yield of the olive should fail, And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should be cut off from the fold, And there be no cattle in the stalls, <sup>18</sup> Yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. <sup>19</sup> The Lord GOD is my strength, And He has made my feet like hinds' feet, And makes me walk on my high places. For the choir director, on my stringed instruments.

### The response of prayer in trials

Philippians 4:6,7 <sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> **And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

Jeremiah 33:1-3 <sup>1</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the second time, while he was still confined in the court of the guard, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Thus says the LORD who made the earth, the LORD who formed it to establish it, the LORD is His name, <sup>3</sup> 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'



## The response of *drawing near to God* in trials.

James 4:8-10 <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

## The response of *waiting* in trials.

Psalms 62: 5,6 <sup>5</sup> My soul, wait in silence for God only, For my hope is from Him. <sup>6</sup> He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be shaken.

## The response of *contentment* in trials.

1 Timothy 6:6-10 <sup>6</sup> But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment. <sup>7</sup> For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. <sup>8</sup> And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. <sup>9</sup> But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang.

## The response of *supernatural eye sight* in trials.

2 Corinthians 4:16, 18 <sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. <sup>18</sup> So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

## **“Do not” warnings**

Matthew 6:25-34 <sup>25</sup> “For this reason I say to you, **do not be anxious for your life, as to what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, as to what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing?** <sup>26</sup> “Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? <sup>27</sup> “And which of you by being anxious can add a single cubit to his life’s span? <sup>28</sup> “And why are you anxious about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one of these. <sup>30</sup> “But if God so arrays the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more do so for you, O men of little faith? <sup>31</sup> **“Do not be anxious then, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘With what shall we clothe ourselves?’** <sup>32</sup> “For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> **“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.** <sup>34</sup> **“Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.**

John 6:27 **“Do not** work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man shall give to you, for on Him the Father, even God, has set His seal.”

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. **Do not** let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Romans 6:12 Therefore **do not** let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

Romans 12:2 **Do not** conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Daniel 5:17-29 <sup>17</sup> Then Daniel answered and said before the king, “Keep your gifts for yourself, or give your rewards to someone else; however, I will read the inscription to the king and make the interpretation known to him. <sup>18</sup> “O king, the Most High God granted sovereignty, grandeur, glory, and majesty to Nebuchadnezzar your father. <sup>19</sup> “And because of the grandeur which He bestowed on him, all the peoples, nations, and men of every language feared and trembled before him; whomever he wished he killed, and whomever he wished he spared alive; and whomever he wished he elevated, and whomever he wished he humbled. <sup>20</sup> “But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly, he was deposed from his royal throne, and his glory was taken away from him. <sup>21</sup> “He was also driven away from mankind, and his heart was made like that of beasts, and his dwelling place was with the wild donkeys. He was given grass to eat like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven, until he recognized that the Most High God is ruler over the realm of mankind, and that He sets over it whomever He wishes. <sup>22</sup> “Yet you, his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this, <sup>23</sup> but you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines have been drinking wine from them; and **you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which do not see, hear or understand. But the God in whose hand are your life-breath and your ways, you have not glorified.** <sup>24</sup> “Then the hand was sent from Him, and this inscription was written out.

<sup>25</sup> “Now this is the inscription that was written out: ‘MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.’ <sup>26</sup> “This is the interpretation of the message: MENE — God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it. <sup>27</sup> “TEKEL — you have been weighed on the scales and found deficient. <sup>28</sup> “PERES — your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians.”

<sup>29</sup> Then Belshazzar gave orders, and they clothed Daniel with purple and put a necklace of gold around his neck, and issued a proclamation concerning him that he now had authority as the third ruler in the kingdom. <sup>30</sup> That same night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain. <sup>31</sup> So Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two.

## Be careful not to murmur.

Phillippians 2:14-16 <sup>14</sup> Do everything without complaining or arguing, <sup>15</sup> so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe <sup>16</sup> as you hold out the word of life — in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.

Numbers 11:1 Now the people became like those who complain of adversity in the hearing of the LORD; and when the LORD heard it, His anger was kindled, and the fire of the LORD burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp.

Numbers 11:10 Now Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, each man at the doorway of his tent; and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly, and Moses was displeased.

## Conclusion.

1. Know that God loves you.
2. Because we know where our eternal home is, we can *rejoice* in our trials.
3. Because we have Christ within our hearts, we can *rejoice* in our trials.
4. Pray. Take everything to God. Experience the supernatural peace of prayer. (Philippians 4, 6,7)
5. Keep your eyes on God, not the wind or the waves.
6. When you pray, give Him thanks for all things. Praise Him. Bless Him.

Psalm 100:0-5 O A Psalm for Thanksgiving. <sup>1</sup> Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth. <sup>2</sup> Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing. <sup>3</sup> Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. <sup>4</sup> Enter His gates with thanksgiving, And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him; bless His name. <sup>5</sup> For the LORD is good; His loving kindness is everlasting, And His faithfulness to all generations.

7. Ask God for wisdom.
8. Comfort others. Look for opportunities to meet the needs of others.
9. Encourage one another.
10. Do not murmur or complain.

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List the trials you have.

List everything you can praise God for.