

Reading: I Peter 1:1-9

Topic: Why Can't Everything
Always Go Well In My Life?

INTRODUCTION: The dream of everyone is to have a _____ without any problems, troubles or opposition, especially the _____ of God but in reality, nobody has such a life here on earth.

I. THE EXAMPLE OF ISRAEL:

A. The People of God:

1. In the Old Testament, the people of Israel were the chosen _____ of God to represent His name in the _____, and the hand of the Lord was upon them. Deut. 7:6,7
2. God protected them and defended them from many of their _____ who were bigger and stronger than they were, and God _____ for their needs miraculously. Deut 7:17,18

B. Their Weakness:

1. Unfortunately, the children of Israel had a weakness for desiring to be like all of the other _____ around them even though God warned them not to _____ after the ways of the wicked. I Sam. 8:4-7
2. When they inherited the Promised Land, just before they entered, Moses gave his farewell _____ to the people and it was a direct _____ to not forget to keep God first in their lives. Dt. 8:7-14
3. Sadly, the people of God did exactly what they were _____ by Moses not to do and when they got into the Promised Land and got many _____, they forgot God and turned to the world. Ps. 106:34
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C. Troubles Bring Them Back To God:

1. When the people drifted away from God and began to _____ the practices of the wicked nations around them, God permitted _____ to come to His people. Ps. 78:34,35
2. God left some enemies in the land who were always around to _____ and distress His people but it caused them to turn back to the _____ and cry out to Him again. Ps. 106:39-42
3. This pattern was repeated _____ during the history of the people of Israel until they became so evil that God permitted their enemies to invade their lands and _____ their homes and take the people as captives to a strange land. Ps. 137:1

II. THE DANGERS OF EASE:

A. When All Goes Well:

1. Everyone likes life when everything is going _____ and when there are no problems, no opposition, the bills are all paid and there is _____ in the bank and all is well. Ps. 23:1,2
2. However, the Word of God sends out a _____ to us that being in this kind of a situation can be a dangerous _____ to be. Amos 6:1
3. Blessings and prosperity are nice to experience, but when they come without any _____, human nature tends to begin to rely upon self rather than upon the _____ who made it possible. Deut. 8:12-
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B. David's Mistake:

1. King David was called a man after God's own _____ and he was a faithful man who loved the Lord and served Him faithfully, but David made one big _____ that changed his life forever.

2. David decided to take it _____ and took himself out of the battles and gave himself a season of ease when others were in the battle and this decision got David into _____.
3. While in the season of ease, David fell into temptation and _____, something that would never have happened had he stayed in the _____ instead of escaping from it.

III. WHY WE HAVE TESTS & TRIALS:

A. Jesus Said It:

1. When we make the decision to follow Jesus, it is the best decision of our _____, and even though it may mean giving _____ some things of the world, we will gain much more. Mk. 10:28-30
2. Please notice that at the end of the list of blessings, Jesus added the _____ 'with persecutions' to let us know that along with the roses, there will also be some _____.

B. They Help Us:

1. Jesus also promised that in this world, we, the people of God would have some _____ but in those times, we would also experience His overcoming _____ and peace. Jn. 16:33
2. When the Apostle Peter wrote his epistle, he wrote about our times of _____ but that also there are times of heaviness and they are _____ to help us grow in our faith. I Peter 1:3-6
3. When we face tests and _____, our faith is being strengthened and purified as we turn to the Lord for His wisdom and direction and when we get through it, we are not only physically _____ but we are also spiritually _____. James 1:2-4

C. Attitude Is Important:

1. We will benefit from our tests and trials if we can realize that God is _____ things to happen to work things for our _____ in the present and in the future. Rom. 5:3-5
2. When we pass through a trial, we may not understand the _____ for it at that time, but when we get further down the road, we will look _____ and see what the Lord prepared for us. I Cor. 2:9
3. We need to ask God to help us to have the _____ attitude when we are going through our testing time so that we will benefit from the experience and enjoy the _____ that are coming. I Th. 5:18

CONCLUSION: A fact of life is that we are going to _____ tests and trials here in this world, but in so doing, we are becoming _____ in our faith and becoming more like Jesus wants us to be.