

Reading: I Peter 1:3-9

Topic: The Purpose Of Tests
And Trials

INTRODUCTION: We would like to believe that once we become a _____ of God that all of our problems, difficulties and hard _____ will be over, but reality teaches us otherwise.

Jn. 16:33

I. WHY THE DIFFICULT TIMES?

A. To Prove & Test:

1. In Scripture, the Promised Land is not a type of _____, but rather it is a type of the life of the believer after receiving the _____ of the Holy Ghost. Acts 2:38,39
2. When the Children of Israel finally entered the Promised Land, it was indeed a _____ of blessing, but there were _____ to be fought and oppositions to be faced. Jos. 3:10
3. Though the Lord had commanded them to drive out the wicked nations that occupied their _____, He stated that He permitted some of their opposition to remain there in order to _____ them. Jud. 3:1-4

B. To Reveal Ourselves:

1. Some of our tests and trials are permitted by God to reveal to ourselves how _____ and sincere we are about following and _____ Him.
2. There are some things in us that are only revealed when we go through a difficult _____ in our walk with God, and then the fire of the _____ brings it out. I Pt. 4:12,13
3. God already knows what we are made of, but sometimes we are not _____ ourselves of certain things that are in us until the proving time and then we can see that we need to _____ and change in certain areas of our lives. Jer. 20:12

II. DEVELOPING FAITH:

A. The Man Abraham:

1. Abraham was given a _____ from God, which he ended up waiting for, for twenty-five _____ but when it finally came, it gave him _____ faith which he never had before. Heb. 11:8,12
2. The _____ that Abraham developed through the difficult time of waiting was what helped him obey God promptly when he passed through what proved to be the greatest _____ of his life when God asked him to sacrifice the _____ that he had waited so long for. Heb. 11:17-19, Gen. 22:5

B. Our Faith:

1. God uses the difficult times of test and trials, not to _____ us, but to develop our _____ for greater challenges and accomplishments that we will face in the future. I Pt. 1:6,7
2. The man Job was a man of strong faith and _____ in God, and when he faced the greatest trials of his life, it did not weaken his faith, but instead it was made _____ by them. Job 23:8-10
3. God does not want our faith to be _____ and weak, but to become strong through experiences and _____, and to be fortified for greater things ahead. James 1:12
4. The heroes of faith listed in Hebrews 11 did not get there on an _____ road, but through great opposition and struggles, but they gained the _____ through the faith they developed. Heb. 11:25

III. OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS TRIALS AND TESTS:

A. To Be Better or Bitter:

1. The Children of Israel had a _____ experience at Marah, but through the _____ experience God gave them a _____ that turned out to be sweet. Ex. 15:22-25
2. If they had been _____ during the trial instead of murmuring, they would have _____ the blessing even more than they did.
3. God gave them a _____ there after the bitter experience and the miracle, then He led them on to a place of even greater blessing and _____. Ex. 15:26,27

B. Our Attitude:

1. The Word of God instructs us to not be _____ when tests and trials come, but instead to do something unusual – to be _____ about it. I Peter 4:12,13
2. Those who go through the tests and trials are actually partaking of Christ's _____, and because of that, they will also one day be partakers of great _____. 2 Tim. 2:12
3. We can choose to be _____ when we go through the tests and trials, realizing that God is using this experience to shape and complete our character to be more _____ Him. James 1:2-4
4. If we develop a bad _____ through the test and trial that God permits, we can lose out on the blessing that God has designed to _____ us.

CONCLUSION: Even though we may not like the tests and _____, if we can come to the place of understanding that God is permitting this for our _____ and future blessings, it will be more easy to pass through the difficulty and receive the joy afterwards. Rom. 8:28