

“What Trials Produce,” Part 5 - 2 Corinthians 1:11-14 – July 17th, 2016

- Today's teaching will be part five of a series I've titled, "What Trials Produce."
- In this series we're seeing numerous things that God will bring about in the life of a Christian by way of the trials we experience.
- While certainly not exhaustive in the sense that our text contains all that God does in our trials, it does teach us the main ones.

1. Peace with the Lord (Verses 1-2)

- The Apostle Paul begins with a familiar greeting saying grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Comfort from the Lord (Verses 3-4)

- Paul says God is the Father of compassion Who comforts us in trials, so we can comfort others with the comfort we received.

3. Endurance in the Lord (Verses 5-6)

- Paul says their distress was for our comfort and salvation, which produces a patient endurance and a triumphant overcoming.

4. Reliance upon the Lord (Verses 7-9)

- Paul says the trials were so beyond them they thought they would die but it was so they would rely on God and not themselves.

5. Deliverance by the Lord (Verse 10)

- Paul says they set their hope in God who delivered them from such a deadly peril and that God will deliver them once again.

6. Prayer to the Lord (Verse 11)

- v11 He says this will cause many to give thanks to God on their behalf for the gracious favor granted them in answered prayer.
- What's interesting about what Paul says here is that the emphasis is on the prayers of many on behalf of the Apostle Paul.
- The reason I find this interesting that one of the main things trials produce in our lives is prayer on the part of God's people.

Adam Clarke wrote, "Even an apostle felt the prayers of the Church necessary for his comfort and support. What innumerable blessings do the prayers of the followers of God draw down on those who are the objects of them!"

Romans 12:12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

7. Wisdom from the Lord (Verse 12)

12 Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, with integrity and godly sincerity. We have done so, relying not on worldly wisdom but on God's grace.

- Paul boasts how his conscience testifies of his integrity and godly sincerity relying on God's grace instead of worldly wisdom.
- This to me is another powerful principle when it comes to trials forcing us to relinquish the wisdom that the world has to offer.
- One of the things I'm learning in my own personal relationship with the Lord is that the world's wisdom will always let me down.
- It's interesting to note how that Paul delineates between the wisdom of the world, and God's grace and wisdom from above.
- The reason I point this out is because it speaks to two kinds of wisdom one of which is worldly and the other, which is heavenly.
- As such, when one finds themselves in the midst of a trial, there has to be the discernment as to which one I'm relying upon.

James 3:13-18 (NKJV) — 13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

James 1:2-8 (NKJV) — 2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

8. Boasting in the Lord (Verses 13-14)

13 For we do not write you anything you cannot read or understand. And I hope that, 14 as you have understood us in part, you will come to understand fully that you can boast of us just as we will boast of you in the day of the Lord Jesus.

- v13 Paul says that they do not write anything to them that they cannot read or understand.
- v14 He says he hopes they'll fully understand they can boast of him as he boasts of them in the day of the Lord Jesus.
- What Paul is saying here is that we as Christians can have a sanctified boasting in the Lord and in the day of the Lord as well.
- If you were to ask me what I thought was one of the main reasons God allows trials this would have to be at the top of the list.
- More specifically, that of boasting in the Lord and how the Lord worked what seemed impossible out for my good and His glory.
- To me, one of the greatest examples of God doing this is when Joseph finally reveals his identity to his brothers while in Egypt.

Genesis 50:20 (NKJV) — 20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.