

Wednesday
April 23,
2025



Lesson
1

TRIAL OF YOUR FAITH

Scripture Setting

1 Peter 1:1 - 9 (KJV)

Maximum Faith, Maximum Trial

1 Pet. 1:7, KJV

“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ”:

- We can understand that our faith is more precious than gold.
- But do we regard the trial of that faith as precious too?

Who Likes Trials

- Paul was concerned that we would not be ‘unsettled’ by trials, especially since we are destined for them.

“For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake”; (Phil. 1:29).

- Trials are essential to our growth. We grow in proportion to the measure of the Spirit in us.

What Is a Trial?

Trial: A time of severe testing allowed by God.

- There is more than one meaning in the Greek.
 - a. *Peirasmos* can either mean trial or temptation.
 - b. The context determines which is meant.
 - c. Either word could be used in 1 Corinthians 10:13: *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”*

Responding to Trials

- We can dignify the trial, which pleases God:
 - a. Not complaining ...
 - b. Not trying to hasten its conclusion ...
 - c. Learning ...
- We can show contempt for the trial by:
 - a. Murmuring ...
 - b. Not seeing it as from God ...
 - c. Making no attempt to learn.
- Note: all trials have a built-in time scale and eventually end.
 - a. While it is going on we may think it will never _____.
 - b. But God knows how much we can _____ and will ensure that it comes to an end.
 - c. The question follows: Did we _____ it or show _____ for it?
 - d. We should therefore take every trial from God with both _____.

- e. If we _____, rather than _____, God may send _____ to see if we really want to grow in _____.

- One trial which may not end—a thorn in the flesh (2 Cor. 12:7).
 - a. This may be _____, or at least much longer than an _____ trial. “For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me” (2 Cor. 12:8).
 - b. It too is for our good (2 Cor. 12:9).

The Importance of This Lesson

- Trials in this life are _____. “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).
- Trials come from _____.
- They help us to grow—both in _____ of God’s ways and in receiving more of the _____. “Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory” (Eph. 3:13).
- This lesson should teach us not to _____ when God brings us to a time of trial, but to _____ it with _____ and _____.
- We will increase in faith to the _____ we learn to _____ every trial, whether _____ or _____.

When Time Seems to Be Running Out

- Abraham had been told that his seed would be as numerous as the stars in the heavens (Gen. 15:5) and the dust of the earth (Gen. 13:16).

- a. He believed that and was declared righteous (Gen. 15:6).
- b. But there was no _____ for this. “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Heb. 11:1).
- c. Abraham was “past age.”
- d. His wife, Sarah, was barren.

Taking Matters Into Your Own Hands

- Both Abraham and Sarah apparently began to think that they had _____ God’s promise or perhaps _____ it.
 - a. Abraham began to surmise that his offspring must come through his servant _____ (Gen. 15:2).
 - b. Sarah had another idea; her _____ was to nudge the _____ of God’s _____ and make her servant, Hagar, the way for Abraham to become a father.
 - i. Was this faith?
 - ii. Manipulating _____ and _____ shows:
 - iii. A bit of _____ in God’s word _____.
 - iv. _____ that God will keep His promise _____.

Blinded by a Lie

- For _____ years Abraham sincerely thought that Ishmael was the promised child.
 - a. To this day, when we _____ in on what God wants to do in His own way and time, we tend to _____ our efforts.
 - b. But unexpectedly God told Abraham that Sarah would conceive (Gen. 17:15-16).

Faith Rewarded

- Hebrews 11:11-12
- Genesis 21:3-6