



1 Peter 1:6-7. “Trials”

v6 “In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.”

Rejoice and trials in the same sentence? Yes.

We will go through trials

I. v6...had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. Diverse. Variegated. Many colors.

Physical trials. some you are born with and some you pick up along the way. Illnesses, cancer, strokes, heart attacks, injuries, aging

In scripture: Diseases, deafness, blindness, paralyzed. Job suffered, Paul suffered

Emotional trials.

Christians are not immune. Pastors and leaders are not immune.

David was very emotional (psalms)

Elijah the prophet was so depressed he wanted to die.

Spiritual trials.

We struggle over our own sin, guilt and shame.

We struggle with unrealistic expectations of God.

John the Baptist are you the one? Matthew 11

II. Trials often cause grief.

Grieving is a normal and healthy human expression.

Ecclesiastes 3

A time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
A time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
A time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,

The Hebrews had a public period of grief that lasted 30 days when someone died.

Egyptians grieved for 70 days.

Roman 12:15 “Rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn.”

III. Trials cause us to slow down and re-evaluate.

Its Critical to Remember: GOD IS IN CONTROL.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 “Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

IV. Trials Strengthen us.

James 1:2-4

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

We’re all going to have trials.

**Are you going to move closer to God or
move farther away?**

Suffering people can support and strengthen other suffering people. God will use what you've gone through to help others. That's why support groups work.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

V. Trials reveal the strength of our faith.

v7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith...—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

How do you test your faith – by heating it up.

A trial is not about you - it's about your faith.

Some trials wipe people out.

1 Peter 4:10 “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.”

God's grace comes in many forms

Don't tell God how big your trial – tell your trial how big God is.