

Trials of the Christian Life

The Struggle is Real

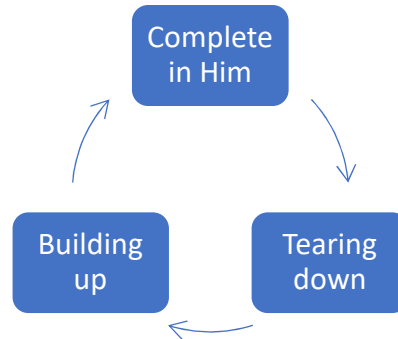
I Shall Come Forth as Gold

- A. Persecution comes when you are doing everything _____.
- Job had an incredible relationship with God who even brags about him – “a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God and escheweth evil” – Job 1:8.
 - God is not the cause, but the allower of persecution.
 - God did NOT take away Job’s possessions, wealth, health, or family...that was all Satan’s doing, but God did allow it – Job 1:10-12, 2:6.
 - There is a spiritual battle raging on all around us all the time – Job 1-2; Eph. 6:12; Daniel 10:10-14.
 - Do NOT _____ God! – Job 1:22, 2:10.
- B. Friends are not always _____. We must be careful of and be wise in the counsel that we give others.
- The “know it all” – voice of experience (Job 4:7-8). “This is how it’s always been” – the voice of tradition (Job 8:8-10). The cruel “letter of the law” – the voice of legalism (Job 11:5-6). NONE of Job’s friends were any help to him, but only brought more persecution.
 - Sometimes, the best way to help a fellow believer who is suffering is to keep our mouth shut and simply be there for them (Job 2:13). We must be careful we are not used by Satan.
 - Our spouse does not always act like our friend. Treat them as God would anyway – Job 2:9-10.
- C. EVERYONE has a breaking point when they will begin to stumble and lose _____ of God.
- Fully understanding God’s plans and purposes are NOT a requirement for obedience and continuing forward – Is. 55:8-9.
 - Instead of asking “How do I get out of this trial,” we need to be asking, “What do I need to get from this trial?”
 - The enemy will use your feelings to conquer your faith. We must have a faith that rules over our feelings – Lamentations 3.
- D. God is not interested in what you have or give, but what you are willing to _____.
- Are you willing to give up all your possessions? – Matt. 19:21.
 - Are you willing to give up your friends and family? – Matt. 10:37-38.
 - Are you willing to give up _____? – John 12:25.
- E. God uses persecution to make us a better servant. It is ultimately how we grow closer to and deeper in our relationship with Him.
- Persecution is not your enemy in your walk with God, but rather your _____ (Joseph, Daniel, Peter, Paul, Hezekiah).

- It is how God _____ us – Job 23:10-12; Ps. 66:10-12; 1 Peter 1:7.
- It reminds us of who we are: unrighteous sinners before a most holy God – Job 42:6; Is. 64:6
- There is a difference between knowing God and _____ God.
 - A tested faith has “seen” (experienced) God firsthand – Job 42:5.
 - A faith that is not tested will never grow – Heb. 11.

F. The work of brokenness

- Through brokenness, God can freely have his way with us, in us, and through us.



- It brings an _____ for us to see the power of God more than we have before because He is your everything – Phil. 1:21; 2 Cor. 12:8-10; Job 42:5!