

Facing Trials And Test

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Warning and Encouragement

To be forewarned is to be forearmed.

- John 16:33 - Will we be overcomers or overcome?
 - I John 4:4 - "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world."
 - Hebrews 13:5 (b) - He will never leave us nor forsake us
 - Philippians 1:29 - Suffering is part of identifying with Jesus.
- Psalm 112:7 (L) "He does not fear bad news nor live in dread of what may happen. For he is settled in his mind that Jehovah will take care of him.

I. We have a choice as to our response.

II. Questions we ask -

As believers, we must look at life with an eternal perspective.

III. Reality of life - James 1:2-4 (P) - My response reveals a lot about me:

Purpose of Trials and Tests

- that we might display the presence of God and His sufficiency and ultimately the gospel to a lost world.

- When a person has a huge problem which no man can solve, he faces an opportunity to find out how great God is and how much He loves that one individual.

- to produce the character quality of endurance and the right sort of independence.

- Living in a sin-filled world with pain and suffering keeps us reminded that we are just passing through, temporary residents of this earth.

- On occasion, for His great and glorious purposes, He lets wicked people harm one of His children

- **Romans 8:28, 29** God works to conform us to the image of His son.

- **Jeremiah 6:27** - not to destroy but to refine. Don't hang on to your dross II Cor 12:9

- No one knows what he trusts in until it is tested.

I Peter 1:6, 7, I Peter 4:12,13

- C. S. Lewis - Pain is God's megaphone.

How to Prepare

- Memorize Scriptures on the subject.

- Develop a confidence based on God's Word - **Jeremiah 29: 11, James 4:8 (a)**

- Determine a plan of action - that God is in control and has my best interest at heart. **Psalm 63:4, 5**

- Be honest with God, but choose to submit.

- Bring God into the negative with praise. **I Thessalonians 5: 18-20**

- **Philippians 4:6,7** Pray

“ The Lord may not have planned that this should overtake me, but He has most certainly permitted it. Therefore, though it were an attack of an enemy, by the time it reaches me, it has the Lord’s permission and, therefore, all is well. He will make it work together with all life’s experiences for good.” Dave Dawson

Definitions of Leadership

EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

“Effective leadership begins with a trusted individual who shares a compelling dream or vision that brings people together in a collaborative way, around a common goal, to bring about desired change that is mutually beneficial to all.” W. Michael Wilson

- **A credible trustworthy individual**
- **An appealing, compelling, motivating dream (vision)**
- **A collaborative process of shared leadership**
- **An agreed upon common goal**
- **Mutually beneficial to all**

Bibliography

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Where is God When It Hurts? - Philip Yancy – Zondervan

Sweet Fire - Carrie Sydnor Coffman - Majesty Press

Don't Waste Your Sorrows - Paul Billheimer-Christian Literature Crusade

“I do not know David Brown, but have been quickly drawn to them from reading these daily, sometimes hourly, updates. What strikes me tonight is the clear desire to be the clay and to resist the great temptation to try to tell the Potter His business. - there is an acknowledgement that “God is taking us down this long, slow, deep road of change that should last a lifetime. There's a lot to learn, and we want the lessons to go so deep they can never be forgotten. “ As a dear friend going through a difficult time once said, “Lord, I pray that none of this suffering will be wasted.” It also strikes me once again that life can truly be changed and we can be changed in a moment in a twinkling of an eye. That is what the scripture says about Christ s return when we will all be changed. I believe that change will be so immediate because we will truly see the eternal and all things temporal will be gone ... all of our selfishness and pride will plummet into nothingness as we stand before God with nothing to clothe us except the righteousness of Christ. We will not have any shred of self-righteousness. Reading about this dreadful accident is tempered only by the fact that David is truly seeing life from the perspective of one who is changed and knows that apart from Him I can do nothing.” Karen King, Trinity Baptist Church, Norman, OK