



## TRIALS AND TEMPTATIONS

Foundations In The Faith Study #8

As we continue on in our spiritual lives, we will find that trials will come. There's a misconception that once we accept the Lord, life is perfect. Through this study, we will learn how to deal with trials and temptations in our lives.

### Trials

#### Turn to 1 Peter 4:12-19

What can we learn from this text?

- We are not alone. All Christians go through their share of trials.
- God is glorified in our lives when we come through trials.
- Some trials we bring on ourselves by being disobedient to God's will.
- Trials are used as a purifier in our life.
- God wants to teach us something through a trial.

#### Turn to James 1:2-4

What can we learn from this text?

- The testing of our faith will strengthen us in our walk with the Lord.
- When we are tested, we can learn from them and grow into maturity.
- We can have joy through trials, knowing that the Lord is in control.

#### *Examples:*

- **Job** – Look at the story of Job who lost all his money, children, and his health, even though the Bible says there was no one more righteous than Job. As we go through the story we discover God allowed Satan to put Job through this. God, in the end, showed His love and grace and mercy in his life (Job 1-42).
- **Joseph** – In the Old Testament, Joseph was sold into slavery by his own brothers, and separated from his father Jacob, who loved him. Yet, later, we find that God was fulfilling His purpose by bringing Joseph into Egypt to become second in command to Pharaoh. Joseph later was reunited with his family and able to take care of them during a horrible famine in the land (Genesis 37-45).
- **Paul** – We read Paul did more for the church of Jesus Christ than any apostle, yet, he also suffered the most. In 2 Corinthians 11 he speaks of being beat, stoned shipwrecked, hungered, and more. But, Paul came to find, if God is for him, who can be against him (2 Corinthians 11:22-33).

### Temptations

#### Turn to James 1:12-15

What can we learn from this text?

- First, we must know God is not the one who tempts us.
- We are tempted when we are led away by our own evil desire.
- When we give place in our heart for our evil desires, sin is birthed and if it is not taken care of, it will destroy us.

## Turn to 1 John 2:15-17

What can we learn from this text?

*Here John covers three main ways Satan tries to tempt us.*

- **Lust of the flesh** – Galatians 5:16-17 *"<sup>16</sup>I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish."*
- **Lust of the eyes** – Matthew 6:22-23 *"<sup>22</sup>The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. <sup>23</sup>But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"*
- **Pride of Life** – Proverbs 13:10 *By pride comes nothing but strife, But with the well-advised is wisdom.*

It's interesting to note that Satan used these same three things to deceive Eve in the Garden.

## How to Overcome Temptation

- Jesus fought off temptation by the Word of God (Matthew 4).
- Get rid of all the sin in our life (Matthew 5:27-30).
- Make no provision for sin (Romans 13:14).
- Put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6).
- Know that there is always a way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13).
- In prayer (Matthew 26:41).

## Scriptures that are key:

- **Romans 8:18** *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*
- **James 1:12** *Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*
- **1 Peter 4:16** *Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.*

## Trials and Temptations: Questions

1. What does Peter say trials will do in our lives? (1 Peter 1:6-7)

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2. What did Christ have to do before He rose from the grave? (Luke 24:45-46)

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3. What will happen to those who choose to live godly? (2 Timothy 3:12)

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4. How will the Lord help us in our temptation? (1 Corinthians 10:13)

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5. What does the Lord know? ( 2 Peter 2:9).

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6. What things work together for good? (Romans 8:28).

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We as Christians will face trials and temptations. Many of us will lose loved ones, jobs, good health, but the Lord will give us strength to endure. Also, when temptations come we need to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to resist it. As Paul would say, "...Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh." Galatians 5:16

**What have we learned through this study?**

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**Do you have any questions, problems, or comments that you would like to share with us?**

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