

Facing Trials and Temptation is NORMAL ~ 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

→ Scripture Reading - James 1.2-3, 1 Pet. 1.6-7, 2 Cor. 1.3-5

INTRODUCTION

TRIALS- Difficulty, Hardship, Testing

TEMPTATION- an opportunity presented to SIN

Why are there TRIALS and TEMPTATIONS ~ Romans 8:19-21

→ We Live in a SINFUL FALLEN World

Romans 8:19-21 (NIV) The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. [20] For the creation was SUBJECTED to FRUSTRATION, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope [21] that the creation itself will be liberated from its BONDAGE to DECAY and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

Genesis 3:17-18 (NIV) ...Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. [18] It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

→ TEMPTATION from Satan

1 Peter 5:8-9 (NLT) Stay alert! Watch out for your GREAT ENEMY, the DEVIL. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. [9] Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are.

→ PERSONAL Sin - Sin of OTHERS

1 Corinthians 11:29-30 (NLT) For if you eat the bread or drink the cup without honoring the body of Christ, you are eating and drinking God's JUDGMENT upon yourself. [30] That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died.

2 Samuel 24:2 (NIV) So the king said to Joab and the army commanders with him, "Go throughout the tribes of Israel from Dan to Beersheba and enroll the fighting men, so that I may know how many there are."

→ TESTING From God

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NIV) In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. [7] These have come so that YOUR FAITH - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may be proved GENUINE and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

James 1:2-3 (NIV) Consider it pure JOY, my brothers, whenever you face TRIALS of many kinds, [3] because YOU KNOW that the TESTING of your faith develops perseverance.

Facing TRIALS ~ Romans 8:19-21

CHANGE our FOCUS...

➤ God KNOWS ALL things

Exodus 3:7 (NIV) The LORD said, "I have indeed SEEN the misery of MY people in Egypt. I have heard them CRYING out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.

➤ God's WISDOM is Beyond Measure

Romans 11:33 (NIV) Oh, the DEPTH of the riches of the WISDOM and KNOWLEDGE of God! How unsearchable His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out!

➤ God is FULL of COMPASSION

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NLT) All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. [4] He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

➤ God has ALL POWER

Psalms 46:1-3 (NIV) God is our REFUGE and STRENGTH, an ever-present help in trouble. [2] Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, [3] though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

We can RESPOND to TRIALS by...

➤ SEEKING Help and Strength in God's WORD

Psalms 119:28 (NLT) I weep with sorrow; encourage me by your word.

Psalm 119:61 (NLT) Evil people try to drag me into sin, but I am firmly anchored to your instructions.

➤ **EMBRACING Weakness**

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (NIV) To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me 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.

➤ Using THEM as **OPPORTUNITIES**

Philippians 1:12-14 (NIV) Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. [13] As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. [14] Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.

➤ Focusing on the **FUTURE**

Romans 8:18 (NIV) I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Facing TEMPTATION ~ 1 Corinthians 10.13

TRIUMPHING over TEMPTATION...

➤ **RUN-** Seek the ESCAPE God Promised

1 Cor. 10:13 (NIV) No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

➤ **CONSIDER-** yourself DEAD to sin

Romans 6:11-13 (NLT) So you also should CONSIDER yourselves to be DEAD to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus. [12] Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. [13] Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. INSTEAD, GIVE yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.

➤ **PRESENT-** GIVE Yourself FULLY to God

Romans 6:13 (NLT) Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, GIVE yourselves completely to God, for you WERE DEAD, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.

➤ **RESIST** - stand Firm AGAINST Satan

James 4:7 (NET) So SUBMIT to God. But RESIST the devil and he will flee from you.

WHEN WE FALL...

➤ **RUN BACK** to God

1 John 2:1 (NLT) My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you WILL NOT sin. But IF anyone DOES sin, we have an ADVOCATE who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous.

➤ **CONFESS** call IT what it is SIN

Psalm 51:3-4, 14 (NLT) For I recognize MY REBELLION; it haunts me day and night. [4] Against YOU, and You alone, HAVE I SINNED; I have DONE what is EVIL in Your sight. You will be proved right in what You say, and YOUR judgment against me is JUST. ...[14] FORGIVE me for shedding blood, O God who saves...

➤ **ACCEPTING** God's Forgiveness

1 John 1:9 (NLT) But if we confess our sins to Him, HE is FAITHFUL and JUST to FORGIVE us our sins and to CLEANSE us from all WICKEDNESS.

➤ **REPEAT** as often as NECESSARY

TAKE AWAY??

Romans 8:31-32 (NIV) What, then, shall we say in RESPONSE to this? If God is FOR US, WHO can be against us? [32] He who did not SPARE his own Son, but gave Him up for us all - how will He not also, along WITH Him, graciously GIVE us ALL things?