



ACCM

Bible Study: Thursday, January 17, 2019.

TOPIC: Temptation, Trials, Tribulation and Persecution Part 2

INTRODUCTION: The poison that is destroying Christianity in our days is what I may consider as 'Christianity made easy or Christianity for Dummies'. This is another way of saying Christianity without suffering or Christianity without challenges. In our days, many scriptures that has to do with enduring hardness, challenges and difficulties have been substituted and some persons have almost re-written the Bible by never referring to such scriptures. Suffering and difficulties have been set aside and carefully expunged in our day to day teaching. We have replaced them with sweet and soft Christianity and have designed songs around these beliefs by saying we will never suffer. We have forgotten that that there are some advantages in suffering. Psalm 34:19 does not make much sense to some believers anymore. If hardness and hardship were completely disadvantageous, the military will not be trained to be hard. Secondly, reality tells us that we will be living in delusion if we live as if there are no challenges in life. Psalm 34:19 is very true as we see it play out in our lives from time to time. It says Many are the afflictions of the righteous.

The truth be told; we encounter challenges every day. We should be more conscious of how to tackle our challenges instead of living in denials and suffering the consequences thereof, pretending that all is well. We are going to continue our discussion on trials as we examine various matters as they concern trials.

However, before we continue, I want us to establish one fact that trials can come to anyone and it may not be due to sin. It could actually be as a result of our righteousness. Luke 22:33

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 11:22-33

OUTLINE:

1. Abraham's test: Gen 22:1-2, 15:5, 16:6, 17:1, 21:5, :
2. Whenever God is responsible for anyone's hardship, it is either a test (proof) from Him or a punishment for sin. Heb 12:7, Deut 8:5, II Sam 7:14, Jer 25:8-12.
3. Our trials produce perseverance: Rom 5:3, I Peter 1:6-7,
4. Whether a test (proof) from God or punishment, it is always to bring you closer to Him and make you better: Job 23:10, Psalm 107:12-13, Psalm 119:71, Exodus 20:20, Deut 8:2, Zech 13:9a.
5. Job's case? What was God's aim and what was the devil's aim? Job 1:7-11, Job 42:10-11. (In this scenario, we will see that God is like a teacher and a coach while the devil is a taskmaster)
6. God often allows the devil to try us. Psalm 34:19, Job 1:7-11, II Tim 3:12
7. God has Sufficient grace to sustain us through trials: 2 Cor 12:8-9, James 1:12, II Cor 4:8-10, Isaiah 43:2,

8. Trials could be an instrument of humility, a staff that could turn us back to God. II Cor 12:1-7,
9. Trials could be an instrument that will make you understand God and appreciate His strength: I Sam 30:1-6

CONCLUSION: We are safe in God's hands. We should not live a life of fear when we are God's hands. Trials and afflictions may come but be rest assured that God is not leaving you in this trial to destroy you. He will make a way of escape. If He is the trigger of our challenge, He will ensure that the devil does not take us beyond what we can handle. We must develop sufficient resistance to withstand any challenge because you may not know if your trial is by God or the devil.

HOW SHOULD A CHRISTIAN HANDLE TRIALS

Handle trials with joy. Rom 5:3, James 1:2-4, Acts 5:41, Matthew 5:10-13

Advantages of enduring Trials: II Tim 2:3-5,10, II Cor 4:6, Psalm 66:12, Heb 12: 11, Rom 8:18