



# Beacon Baptist Church

“Where the sufficiency of the Word is declared”

“Rejoicing in the Trials of Life”

“My brethren, count it all joy *when* you fall into various trials, *knowing* that the testing of your faith produces patience. But *let patience have its perfect work*, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing” (James 1:2-4).

God brings trials into the lives of believers that are designed to display the reality of their faith and to develop the resolve of their faith. A trial is “trouble, or something that breaks the pattern of peace, comfort, joy, and happiness in someone’s life. It is ‘to put someone to the test,’ with the purpose of discovering that person’s nature or that thing’s quality.” Our response to a trial determines whether it becomes a test that can develop us or a temptation that can destroy us. Joseph is a wonderful example of perseverance during trials. His attitude and actions demonstrated an understanding that God’s sovereignty directed every circumstance in his life. As result, the many trials he faced developed him instead of destroying him.

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be *conformed to the image of His Son*, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren” (Rom.8:28-29). It is only Christians who can rest in the promise of those verses. **If God chooses not to remove difficulties that we may be experiencing, then we can rest assured that they are for His glory and our good.** He will use all things in our lives to make us more like Christ. The words “work together” give the idea of “cooperating to achieve a desired end.” It is difficult for us to see how some of the things that God brings our way can work any good. When we cannot understand what God is doing, we must rest in Who He is. Think of it this way. Most people would not enjoy “choking down” powdered brownie mix or drinking half of a cup of vegetable oil. Nor would they profit much from either ingredient. But when “these things” are mixed with two eggs and ¼ cup of water, poured into a 9X13-inch greased baking pan, and baked for 30 minutes in an oven at 325 degrees, the outcome is going to be both beneficial and pleasant. Leave out any ingredient, set the wrong temperature or the wrong time, or use a pan that is too large or too small and you won’t get the desired result. You can be confident of the results if you follow the instructions because *experts wrote them*. Likewise, you cannot do any better than obeying the instructions in God’s Word to “rejoice in the Lord always” (Phil.4:4). When “the heat” is turned up, or some unpleasant “ingredients” come your way, focus on the result of Christ likeness that God has promised. Because Paul saw that his “thorn in the flesh” was to make him more effective for Christ, he welcomed it along with other hardships! God’s purpose in the “thorn” was to show His grace and to grow His servant. The same can be said of trials that come into the life of any Christian who desires to glorify God. Each of them is there in the providence of God for His glory and our eventual good.

God uses our trials to make us more like Christ.

God uses our trials to teach us to rely more upon Him and not upon our own resources.

God uses our trials to reveal what is in our hearts.

God uses our trials to teach us to minister to others.

God uses our trials to give others a ministry of intercessory prayer.

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“There are no crown-wearers in heaven that were not cross-bearers here below.” Spurgeon