

Responsive Reading; Psalm 25

1 Peter 4:12-19 Hard times are part of life. Rejoice, esp. If they come from your being like Jesus!

1 Peter 4:19 when suffering is part of God's plan...

Philippians 2:12 fear and trembling is a part of walking through our time here even while saved- we are responsible for ourselves & to be in the center of God's will meaning free from trials is NOT Biblical. If you are in the center, we may be in testing, or it may draw fire!

Hebrews 12:8 chastisement->training with disciplinary correction-for the true children of the family

Proverbs 3:11-12 Chastening, corrections, is part of a loving family structure. It helps a little to grow up well.

As Christians we should expect testing, corrections, and trials.

They grow us up and make us stronger, if we learn from them and trust the God Who allows them...

1 Peter 4:12-13 Trials will come ~ praise Him Who can sustain & carry you through them.

1 Peter 4:17-18 Reflect on the contrast of our sufferings here vs the suffering of the ungodly in hell...

Remember to get "your house in order" & look at yourself closely before God first before you ever look at another! Have you slipped? Have you asked forgiveness & really repented??

Genesis 22:1-2 Tests are intended to make us, not break us.

Consider Abraham~& see what are YOUR real priorities when a trial or test come?

Leviticus 20:1-5 Child sacrifice is condemned, but why ask for the sacrifice? Abraham had to choose to love God more than his long awaited son & to break the hold of the child of promise sitting on the throne of his heart, & trust God to sit there & provide for him & his family...

If you are a Christian, your faith must tested & refined through the trials

1 Peter 4:4 Old friends/acquaintances may very well turn on you

1 Peter 4:12 iery trials are not strange, but part of the walk...You are a target of the enemy!

John 15:18-19 If you are like the world, no problem; if you are going to be like Jesus, big problems... They hated Him first & it will be our suffering for Him as they hate us, as well. That's a good thing! Don't go down with them! So, as you walk closer to Christ, don't be surprised by trials ~ expect them.

Mark 13:9

Matt. 23:31

Finding Joy in the Trials...

1 Peter 4:13-14 Take joy in the situation, knowing that God will be glorified through it & account it for your good, plus now His glory rests on you!

Rom. 5:3-4 Only God can give us great joy in the midst of great trials, but with Him you can have joy...it is the ultimate good that will come out of it for which we look & have great expectation. It will be used to

the glory of God & to bring others to Him. You will become a life well lived, for God & others!

James 1:2-5 Testing & trials bring patience, peace, holiness, & wisdom. Hang in there & trust Him!

Paul gives us 3 Reasons why we can/should rejoice in our trials

***They lead us to a deeper fellowship with Christ~He went through more than ever we will.**

~His suffering was both and eternal penal & substitutionary debt ... ours is because He did for us what we could not do for Him & we therefore align ourselves with Him above & separate from the world.

~He is ever with us through it all!

Dan. 3:24-25 The fiery furnace!!

Acts 7:56 the stoning of Stephen

Acts 18:9-10 Paul in Corinth

2 Timothy 4:17 Paul encouraging Timothy

***Trials will lead us to a deeper level of joy at His coming! (& we get a "front row seat"!)**

Romans 8:18 Present sufferings pale in the light of future glory

***We will have a deeper experience in God's Spirit &**

1 Peter 4:14 Reproached for the Spirit of God on you

Isaiah 11:2 The Spirit of God rests on the Messiah & He shares with us

1 Peter 4:15-18 Make sure you aren't suffering for some sin on your part, but if you are holding your part well, understand that judgment must begin with the Church, but it will fan out to the sinner & ungodly!

3 Questions to ask ourselves when we face trials~

1. *Is this trial due to some known sin in my life? Have I disobeyed God? Broken a law of man?*
2. *Have I considered the depth of my sins in an eternal perspective in this particular trial?*
 - a. Ezekiel 9:4-6 begin the cleansing at the sanctuary
 - b. 1 Cor. 11:31-32 Judge yourself first, then comes the judgment of others for all sin
 - c. John 6:67-69 don't bail on your faith
3. *Am I trusting myself in this trial to God? Really trusting?*
 - a. 1 Peter 4:19 the faithful Creator...
 - b. 2 Tim. 1:12 I know, am persuaded, am entrusted into, & am committed to the Lord
 - c. Luke 23:46 Demonstrated, true commitment!

Psalms 25 Seek God in the hard times, no matter the reason

James 1:1-6 a concise summary of Ps. 25 Wisdom in the midst of trials

Heb 11:6 You must approach and seek God with faith ~ don't doubt!

Matthew 21:22 ask, believing

*Psalms 25:1-4, & vs 20 Trust, show, teach, & do not let me be ashamed
as I commit myself wholly....This is a prayer we can all use!*

Remember the mountain shack...

Closing Hymn: [Battle Hymn Of The Republic](#), page 475

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*At Covenant, we firmly believe that questions deserve answers
and that you have a right to know the Truth ~*

John 8:32 "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall MAKE you free."

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Suffer, ashamed, glorify, trials, hope, judgment, house of God, ungodly, sinner, righteous, faithful Creator, hard times, difficulty, health, problems, abuse, fairness, sick, consequence, fight, win, battle, temple of the Holy Ghost, lie, bitterness, reputation, gossip, telltale, confidence, rumor, hurt, harm, promise, pray, help, demonstrate, teach, guide, drugs, confront, God's will, name of Christ, name of Jesus, Spirit of God, glory