

# *“Don’t be surprised at the fiery trails you are going through as if something strange were happening to you” 1 Peter 4:12-13*

## God’s Words..... on Trials, Temptation and Suffering

Remember when you are reading these scriptures that nothing can touch His beloved unless **He allows it**. And if He allows it He is looking for our response to be according to His word where He has instructed us and has “fully equipped us” as to how we should respond.

As 2 Cor.10: 3-5 says...we use God’s mighty weapons: Remember Daniel, Shadrack, Meshack and Abendigo, Joseph, Esther, Paul, Stephen, and at the top of the list would be JESUS!

Don’t look at the tempter, look at the Tester!

**1 Peter 4:1 says, "Those who are willing to suffer for Christ have decided to stop sinning".**

### Trials

**1 Peter 4:12-13** <sup>12</sup>Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery **trials** you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>Instead, be very glad—because these **trials** will make you partners with Christ in his suffering, and afterward you will have the wonderful joy of sharing his glory when it is displayed to all the world.

**James 1:2-7** <sup>2</sup>Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face **trials** of many kinds, <sup>3</sup>because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. <sup>6</sup>In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of **trials**. <sup>7</sup>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

**2 Peter 2:8-10** Yes, he was a righteous man who was distressed by the wickedness he saw and heard day after day. <sup>9</sup>So you see, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their **trials**, even while punishing the wicked right up until the Day of Judgment. <sup>10</sup>He is especially hard on those who follow their own evil, lustful desires and who despise authority. These people are proud and arrogant, daring even to scoff at the glorious ones without so much as trembling.

**Acts 14: 22-23** <sup>22</sup>...they strengthened the believers. They encouraged them to continue in the faith, reminding them that they must enter into the Kingdom of God through many **tribulations**. <sup>23</sup>Paul and Barnabas also appointed elders in every church and prayed for them with fasting, turning them over to the care of the Lord, in whom they had come to trust.

**John 16:33** "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace In the world you have **tribulation**, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

**Romans 12:10-13** Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; <sup>11</sup> not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; <sup>2</sup>rejoicing in hope, persevering in **tribulation**, devoted to prayer, <sup>13</sup>contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

**Romans 5:2-4** <sup>2</sup>Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of highest privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. <sup>3</sup>We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and **trials**, for we know that they are good for us-

-they help us learn to endure. <sup>4</sup>And endurance develops strength of character in us, and character strengthens our confident expectation of salvation

**1 Peter 1:5-7** <sup>5</sup>And God, in his mighty power, will protect you until you receive this salvation, because you are trusting him. It will be revealed on the last day for all to see. <sup>6</sup>So be truly glad! There is wonderful joy ahead, even though it is necessary for you to endure many trials for a while. <sup>7</sup>These **trials** are only to test your faith, to show that it is strong and pure. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—and your faith is far more precious to God than mere gold. So if your faith remains strong after being tried by fiery trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

**James 1:12** <sup>12</sup>Blessed is a man who perseveres under **trial**; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

### Suffering

**1 Peter 4:1 says, "Those who are willing to suffer for Christ have decided to stop sinning".**

**1 Peter 2:19-23** <sup>19</sup>For God is pleased with you when, for the sake of your conscience, you patiently endure unfair treatment. <sup>20</sup>Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you **suffer** for doing right and are patient beneath the blows, God is pleased with you. <sup>21</sup>This **suffering** is all part of what God has called you to. Christ, who suffered for you, is your example. Follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup>He never sinned, and he never deceived anyone. <sup>23</sup>He did not retaliate when he was insulted. When he suffered, he did not threaten to get even. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly. .

**1 Peter 5:6-7** <sup>6</sup>So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and in his good time he will honor you. <sup>7</sup>Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about what happens to you.

**1 Peter 5:8-9** <sup>8</sup>Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the Devil, your great enemy. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour. <sup>9</sup>Take a firm stand 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

**1 Peter 5:10** <sup>10</sup>In his kindness God called you to his eternal glory by means of Jesus Christ. After you have **suffered** a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation

**Acts 5:41** <sup>41</sup> So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to **suffer** shame for His name

**Acts 5** <sup>41</sup>The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to **suffer** dishonor for the name of Jesus.

**1 Peter 4:14-16** <sup>14</sup> If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. <sup>16</sup> but if anyone **suffers** as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.

**Philippians 3:10** that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His **sufferings**, being conformed to His death;

**1 Peter 3:14** <sup>14</sup>But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't be afraid and don't worry. (nlt)

**1 Peter 3:14** <sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED. (nasb)

2 Corinthians 1:5-7 <sup>5</sup> For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ. <sup>7</sup> and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our comfort.

2 Timothy 2:12 <sup>12</sup> If we **endure**, we will also reign with Him;

1 Peter 4:13 <sup>13</sup> but to the degree that you share the **sufferings** of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation

2 Corinthians 4:10 Through **suffering**, these bodies of ours constantly share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies

James 5:11 <sup>11</sup>We give great honor to those who endure under **suffering**. Job is an example of a man who endured patiently. From his experience we see how the Lord's plan finally ended in good, for he is full of tenderness and mercy

Romans 8:17 <sup>17</sup> and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we **suffer** with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

1 Peter 4 <sup>1</sup>So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to **suffer**, too. For if you are willing to **suffer** for Christ, you have decided to stop sinning. <sup>2</sup>And you won't spend the rest of your life chasing after evil desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God.

### Persecution

**1 Peter 4:1 says, "Those who are willing to suffer for Christ have decided to stop sinning".**

2 Timothy 3:12 "Indeed, all who desire to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be **persecuted**"

James 4:7 "Submit yourselves to God (first), resists the devil (second) and He will flee from you" God blesses those who are **persecuted** because they live for God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

Matthew 5:11 "God blesses you when you are mocked and **persecuted** and lied about because you are my followers.

Matthew 5:12 Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were **persecuted**, too.

Mark 10:29-31 <sup>29</sup>And Jesus replied, "I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, <sup>30</sup>will receive now in return, a hundred times over, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—with **persecutions**. And in the world to come they will have eternal life. <sup>31</sup>But many who seem to be important now will be the least important then, and those who are considered least here will be the greatest then"

John 15:20 Do you remember what I told you? 'A servant is not greater than the master.' Since they persecuted me, naturally they will **persecute** you. And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you!

2 Thessalonians 1:7 And God will provide rest for you who are being **persecuted** and also for us when the Lord Jesus appears from heaven. He will come with his mighty angels,

2 Corinthians 12:10 Since I know it is all for Christ's good, I am quite content with my weaknesses and with insults, hardships, **persecutions**, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Thessalonians 1:5 But God will use this **persecution** to show his justice. For he will make you worthy of his Kingdom, for which you are suffering,

Revelation 14:12 Let this encourage God's holy people to endure **persecution** patiently and remain firm to the end, obeying his commands and trusting in Jesus."

James 4: 7-10 ...Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, you hypocrites. <sup>9</sup>Let there be tears for the wrong things you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. <sup>10</sup>When you bow down before the Lord and admit your dependence on him, he will lift you up and give you honor.

Luke 6:22 <sup>22</sup> "Blessed are you when men hate you, and **ostracize** you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man.

### Temptation

**1 Peter 4:1 says, "Those who are willing to suffer for Christ have decided to stop sinning".**

1 Corinthians 10:13 <sup>13</sup> No **temptation** has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

1 Corinthians 10:13 NLT <sup>13</sup>But remember that the **temptations** that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will keep the **temptation** from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it.

James 1:12-18 "God blesses the people who patiently endure **testing**. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. <sup>13</sup>And remember, no one who wants to do wrong should ever say, "God is **tempting** me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else either. <sup>14</sup>**Temptation** comes from the lure of our own evil desires. <sup>15</sup>These evil desires lead to evil actions, and evil actions lead to death. <sup>16</sup>So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup>Whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God above, who created all heaven's lights. Unlike them, he never changes or casts shifting shadows. <sup>18</sup>In his goodness he chose to make us his own children by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his choice possession.

**God causes all things to work together for good... clearly Joseph understood this and consider all he went through...read on:**

Genesis 50:20 (Joseph here is speaking to his brothers who abused him) "But as for you, you intended evil against me, but God intended this for good to bring about this present result, the saving of many lives."

John 8:36 "For is the Son has set you free you are free indeed". With Freedom comes responsibility! That is.... "Our response to His ability!"

### How to Walk in Victory:

Psalm 81:13-14 "But Oh, that my people **would listen to Me**. Oh that they would **follow Me**, walking in **My paths**. How quickly I would **then** subdue their enemies. How soon **My hands** would be on their foes."

1. We listen to Him
2. We follow Him
3. We walk on His Path
4. We stop trying to subdue our own enemies and leave that to Him.
5. We take our hands off our foes and leave the "handiwork" to God
6. According to this verse when we take our hands off our enemies, and turn to Him and follow Him, then He subdues our enemies.

You see while “our” hands are on our foes, God just turns up the heat, which gives us greater need to run to Him, which is what He is after in the first place!

Only “His” hands should be on our foes. Our hands were not made to handle our foes. Only “He” should be subduing our enemies as we are turning to Him for help and for His protection.

As new creatures in Christ who are no longer “victims” but “Victors” we no longer have to protect ourselves, because “He” is our **Protector**... (Ps. 91) that is why we run to Him! “Yes, this is the inheritance of the servants of the Lord!”

But remember “partaking” of the Protection He offers is quite often based upon my turning to Him. Until I do that He “turns up the heat”...a great motivation to get my hands off the situation!”

And it is also true that when we least expect it His grace comes and delivers us out of a multitude of situations, even when we forget to ask! Amazing Grace! Oh the sweet, sweet love of Jesus!

A note to remember...we are all in process. The greatest failure is not “falling off the bicycle, but not calling upon God to help you back on to try again”. It’s the Heart of the matter. Remember you can always press the “Restart Button”! Isn’t this is how we teach our children as we help them learn & grow. And we are called the “Children” of God! Looks like He is doing the same with us! Oh How He Loves You and Me! His patience is motivated by His extravagant love!

### **This Thing is From Me 1 Kings 12:24**

My child, I have a message for you today; let Me whisper it in your ear, that it may cover with His glory any storm clouds which may arise, and smooth the rough places upon which you may have to tread.

It is short – only five words – but let them sink into your inmost soul. Use them as a pillow upon which to rest your weary head: “This thing is from Me.”

Have you ever thought of it, that all that concerns you, concerns ME, too” for “he that touches you touches the apple of My eye.” Zech. 2:8

I would have you learn, when temptations assail you, and the “enemy comes in like a flood,” that this thing is from Me; that your weakness needs My might, and your safety lies in letting Me fight for you.

You are very precious in My sight (Is. 43:4). Therefore it is My special delight to educate you.

Are you in money difficulties? Is it hard to make both ends meet? This thing is from Me, for I am your purse-bearer, and would have you draw from and depend upon Me. My supplies are limitless. (Phil.4: 19) I would have you prove my promises. Let it not be said of you, “In this thing you did not believe the Lord your God.” Dt.1: 32

Are you in difficult circumstances, surrounded by people who do not understand you, who never consult your taste, who put you in the background? “This thing is from Me.” I am the God of circumstances. “You did not come to this place by accident; it is the very place God meant for you.” Have you not asked to ‘be made humble’? See, then, I have placed you in the very school where this lesson is taught; Your surroundings and companions are only working out My will.

Are you passing through a night of sorrow? “This thing is from Me.” I am the “Man of Sorrows, and acquainted with grief.” I have let earthly comforters fail you, that, by turning to Me, you may obtain everlasting consolation. 2 Thess. 2:16,17

Has some friend disappointed you? One to whom you opened out your heart? “This thing is from Me.” I have allowed this disappointment to come, hat you may learn that:

The Best Friend to have is Jesus; He will hear you when you call, He will keep you lest you fall, The best friend to have is Jesus.”

I want to be your confidant. Has someone repeated things about you that are untrue? Leave them to Me, and draw closer to Me, your shelter out of reach of the “ the strife of accusing tongues” (Ps. 31:20)

“For I will make your innocence as clear as the dawn, and the justice of your cause will shine like the noonday sun.” (Ps. 37:6)

Have your plans been upset? Are you bowed down and weary? This thing is from Me. You made your plans, then came asking Me to bless them; but I would have you let Me plan for you, and then I take the responsibility; for “This thing is too heavy for you, you are not able to perform it all by yourself” Ex. 18:18 You are only an instrument, not an agent.

Have you longed to do some great work for Me, and instead been laid aside on a bed of pain and weakness? This thing is from Me. I could not get your attention in your busy days, and I want to teach you some of My deepest lessons. “They also serve who only stand and wait.”

I want you to learn to sing: “I am not eager, bold or strong, All that is past; I am ready not to DO! At last, At last!”

Some of My greatest workers are those shut out from active service that they may learn to wield the weapon of prayer. (Praying without ceasing.)

Are you suddenly called upon to occupy a difficult and responsible position? Launch out on Me. I am trusting you with “the possession of difficulties,” and for “This thing the Lord your God shall bless you in all your works and in all you put your hands to. Dt. 15:10

This day I place in your hands this pot of holy oil; make use of it freely, My child. Let every circumstance as it arises, every word that pains you, every interruption that would make you impatient, and every revelation of your own weakness, be anointed with it! Remember, “Interruptions are Divine instructions.” The sting will go as you learn to see Me in all things. Therefore “Set your hearts to all the words which I testify among you this day, for it is not a vain thing for you; because it is your life, and through “this thing: you shall prolong your days in the land. “ Dt. 32:46

### **Displayed by God: Daily with the King**

Whether I like it or not (and I like it!), I am in “show business.” The Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on earth” (Job 1:8) Disciples are for display, saints are for spectacle. God the Master Artist does not ply His talents to a raw sinner for nothing; He wants His chief enemy, Satan, to observe and understand what happens to a man when he become pliable in God’s hands...the very opposite of what Satan was when he sinned. But God must display me; I cannot display myself. The chief end of His masterpiece in me is not only for the eternal ages (Eph. 2:7-10), but also for now in the midst of this “crooked & perverse generation” (Philippians 2:15). The bumper sticker “Please be patient, God isn’t finished with me yet” is true, but only partly true. There are elements of a finished product within me, and God wants those elements displayed for others to see. Remember Daniel? The den of lions was not for Daniel’s benefit, but for the king’s. “Daniel...has your God...been able to deliver you from the lions?” Daniel 6:19-20 Looking into the den, the pagan king Darius saw a servant of God displaying the victory over the lions that his faith had made possible. He was astonished and

impressed, so much so that he issued a decree; “the God of Daniel...is the living God (who delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders” Daniel 6:25-27. Daniel was an actor in a living drama, and the result was applause to Almighty God. Have you seen my servant \_\_\_\_\_?

Dare I put my name here as one whom the Lord can display? I see now what Paul meant when he called himself God’s exhibition and God’s “spectacle” to the world (1 Corinthians 4:9. What a glory to be a chosen showpiece of God! “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” Eph. 2:10 (There is always purpose to our pain)

### “Daily With The King” September 28

Gethsemane not only shows me how to overcome fear, but how to succeed in my Christian life. In Gethsemane, Jesus prayed a prayer, “Not My will, but Thine be done” (Luke 22:42); on Calvary, Jesus shouted in triumph, “It is [satisfactory] finished [completed]!” (John 19:30). It was in Gethsemane that Jesus sowed the seeds of victory on Calvary. I will be faced with countless Calvarys, and the only way I can prepare for them is to go through Gethsemane.

I must be a Gethsemane disciple. Gethsemane was not an isolated experience for Jesus; He went there “as was His custom” (Luke 22:39). Spiritually, His whole life was a Gethsemane; He was constantly facing the enemy’s alternatives, He was continually deciding to do the Father’s will. The more selfish a person is, the less he will experience of Gethsemane. He has no crisis, no agony, and therefore no victory, believers who live in the atmosphere of Gethsemane constantly reap victory.

Gethsemane divides disciples into three groups; those who decide to ignore God’s will, those who decide to consider God’s will, and those who decide to do God’s will. Victory comes only to the one who chooses to enact God’s will.

I can avoid Gethsemane if I choose to do so, but I cannot avoid Calvary. The tragedy is that if I avoid Gethsemane, I will be in poor condition indeed to face my Calvary. The glorious sequence of Calvary, resurrection, and ascension” starts in Gethsemane. Lord, let me say honestly, ‘I’ll go with Him through the garden!’ Then Christ will respond by saying, “To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down w/ my Father on His throne” (Rev. 3:21 NIV)

**Hebrews 13** <sup>20-21</sup>And now, may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, all that is pleasing to him. Jesus is the great Shepherd of the sheep by an everlasting covenant, signed with his blood. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

### “Daily with the King” September 22

I must understand that the Bible is not only my source of comfort, but also my source of bruising. “Is not My Word like fire?”, declares the Lord, “and like a hammer which shatters a rock?” (Jeremiah 23:29). If I have never felt the scorching of the Bible’s heat or the shattering of the Bibles blow, I am not making much progress as a disciple. The Bible is a sharp instrument; it pierces, divides, discerns, and reaches into the depths of my personality, down to the thoughts and motives of my nature. (Hebrews 4:12)

I must beware the man who preaches a sugarcoated faith. Faith in God is not an Aladdin’s lamp that grants my every wish. I must avoid, as I would the plague, the man who preaches

“Peace, peace” continually. There are times when the Bible will not give me peace; times when to comfort and assure me would be absolutely damaging to me. How can I sin and not feel the burning fire of the Word?

The false prophet is easily discovered. He is the man who offers nothing but honey, peace, joy, security, and tranquility. He does that, of course, because it is what the natural man craves; It provides him a ready audience, a guarantee of success. A counselor who offers me a rosy goal but never mentions the painful, torturous road to it is not my friend. Jesus Christ is my true Friend. He offers me a rewarding future, but “with persecutions” (Mark 10:29-30). He wants to deliver me safe, sound, and holy. That is why His Word must sometimes make me ache with soreness and weep with bitterness. He knows where it all is leading-to manhood and womanhood tinged with glory. I respond with Mary’s sincere humility: “Behold, the bondslave of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word,” for “my soul exalts the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior” (Luke 1:38,46-47)

**Psalms 119** <sup>129</sup> Truly, I love your commands more than gold, even the finest gold. <sup>28</sup>Truly, each of your commandments is right. That is why I hate every false way.

### “Daily with the King” September 23

The strength of my devotion to Jesus Christ is not measured by my speech, but by my *sufferings*. When Paul urged the Colossians on to greater zeal for God, he did not argue; he pointed. “Remember my bonds [prison chains],” he wrote to them (Colossians 4:18, KJV). If his sufferings for Christ could not convince them, nothing could. Would Paul himself not know? What started him thinking about Christ-Stephen’s speech or his death (Acts 7:60-8:1)?

Paul has left us many memorials of his devotion to Christ-letters, travels, sermons, miracles-but he left nothing greater than his chains, the symbol of his sufferings for Christ’s sake. The measure of a person’s devotion to any cause, right or wrong, is the depth of the suffering he is willing to undergo for it. That is why Paul could say, “I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus” (Galatians 6:17)

What scars do I bear for Christ? Scars are not an end in themselves, but signs of an inward commitment. Nor will I seek scars of the body, but what are more important, scars of the spirit are the sacrifices of self-dependence and self-direction that I make for Christ’s sake. Whether or not I ever wear physical scars for Christ is not essential; it is absolutely essential that I wear spiritual scars for Him.

A Christian once said, “There are no nail prints in my hands.” Perhaps not. But a more pertinent question is: Are there nail prints in your heart? Paul rejoiced in his scars, because then, he said, “the power of Christ may rest upon me” (2 Corinthians 12:9,KJV): he was willing to trade scars for the privilege of bearing fruit. So will everyone who follows the Lamb wherever He goes.

**Isaiah 63** <sup>9</sup>In all their suffering he also suffered, and he personally rescued them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them. He lifted them up and carried them through all the years.