

COMMON suffering

CARNAL suffering

CHRISTIAN suffering

Five tools for handling your trials.

Tool # 1: REALIZE that trials are going to happen.

1 Peter 4:12 (NKJV) "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you."

John 15:20 (NIV) "No servant is greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you also."

Ephesians 6:12 (NASB) "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."



Tool # 2: REJOICE when trials come your way.

1 Peter 4:13 (NIV) "But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ..."

Reasons To Rejoice:

1. Trials draws me CLOSER to God.

1 Peter 4:13 (NKJV) "But rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy."

Philippians 3:10 (NIV), Paul said, "I want to know Christ and the fellowship of His suffering."

2. Trails make God VISIBLE in my life.

1 Pet. 4:14 (NASB) " If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you."

3. Trails mean that God can TRUST me.

Job 1:8 (NASB) "The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil."

Tool # 3: REFUSE to be ashamed.

1 Peter 4:16 (NASB) "If you suffer as a Christian."

1 Peter 4:16 (NASB) "if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name."

Matthew 5:10-12 (HCSB) "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of Me. Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you."



Tool # 4: REMEMBER the reward you'll receive.

II Corinthians 4:17 (HCSB) "For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory."

Romans 8:16-17 (NKJV) "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."



Tool # 5: REMAIN faithful to God.

1 Peter 4:19 (NASB) "Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right."



How do you remain faithful when trials come?

1st: Entrust your life to Christ.

2 Timothy 1:12 (Phillips) "Yet I am not in the least ashamed. For I know the one in whom I have placed my confidence, and I am perfectly certain that the work he has committed to me is safe in his hands until that day."

2nd: Keep doing what is right.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NASB) "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord."

Application:

How many of the tools mentioned are you currently using in your life?

- Realize trials will come
- Rejoice in your trials
- Refuse to be ashamed of your faith
- Remember the rewards you'll receive
- Remain faithful to God.

How skilled are you at using the above tools?

- Realize: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
- Rejoice: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
- Refuse: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
- Remember: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
- Remain faithful: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

What adjustment do you need to make in your life to obey what God has shown you through this lesson?

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 4:16 (NASB) "if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name."