

WHY ME LORD?
HOW TO RISE ABOVE THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF LIFE.

John 16:33, “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (NKJV)

I. EVERYONE MUST LEARN HOW NOT TO LET PROBLEMS GET THEM DOWN.

James 1:2, “Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow, and don't try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete.” (TLB)

II. EVERYONE MUST LEARN TO APPROACH ALL PROBLEMS AND TRIALS AS OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREAT JOY AND GROWTH IN THE LORD.

III. YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO TRUST THE LORD BECAUSE NOTHING CAN EVER SEPARATE YOU FROM THE LORD'S LOVE FOR YOU AS A CHRISTIAN.

IV. YOU MUST REMEMBER THAT GOD WORKS ALL THINGS OUT FOR GOOD! EVEN TRIALS, TRIBULATIONS AND SUFFERING B FOR THOSE WHO TRULY LOVE HIM.

V. YOU SHOULD SEEK GOD'S WISDOM WHEN FACING SEVERE TRIALS AND SUFFERING.

James 1:5-8, “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.” (NIV)

A. How do you get wisdom?

1. You ask God for wisdom.

James 1:5, “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all...” (NIV)

2. You need to pay attention to God=s promises.

James 1:5 tells us:

a. God will give you wisdom.

b. God will give you a generous amount of wisdom.

- c. God will not scold you for not knowing how to handle a problem when you ask Him for help.

James 1:5, "...without finding fault,"

- 3. You have to ask for wisdom by really believing God will give you wisdom.
- 4. You cannot doubt; that is, you cannot ask for wisdom and then:
 - a. Wonder if God really exists.
 - b. Wonder if God really heard your request.
 - c. Wonder if God really loves and cares for you.
 - d. Wonder if God can really do what you ask.

VI. YOU NEED TO REMEMBER GOD HAS PROMISED TO HELP YOU IF YOU ASK.

Heb. 4:16, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (KJV)

VII. YOU SHOULD REMIND YOURSELF OF OTHER BELIEVERS WHO PERSEVERED THROUGH SUFFERINGS AND SEVERE TRIALS.

A. Remember Job.

- 1. Job trusted God. He did not rebel against God and he patiently waited through his trials and later God restored his wealth and gave him more children.

VIII. YOU SHOULD FOCUS ON THE ENDURANCE OF JESUS CHRIST WHEN TROUBLES AND AFFLICTIONS STRIKE YOU.

Heb. 12:2, "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (NKJV)

- A. Why should you compare your sufferings with those of Christ: it keeps you from becoming weary, from fainting and losing heart, from becoming discouraged and dejected.

- B. We must stand strong and refuse to give up under the weight of trials and suffering.

IX. YOU SHOULD KNOW WHY GOD COMFORTS YOU IN YOUR AFFLICTIONS: THAT YOU MIGHT BE A TESTIMONY AND A COMFORTER TO OTHER SUFFERERS.

2 Cor.1:3-4, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” (NKJV)

- A. To be compassionate means to feel sympathy or pity for someone; to have a desire to alleviate or take away a person's pain or problem.
- B. To comfort means to be by the side of another; to relieve and support; to console and encourage.
 - 1. But there is always an underlying meaning to the word COMFORT: the idea of strength.
 - 2. True comfort consoles and relieves you, but it strengthens at the same time. It encourages you to go out and face all the afflictions and trials of this life.
 - 3. God comforts you so that you might be a testimony to other sufferers.

This is one of the major reasons why God allows you to suffer and why He comforts you in your afflictions: that you might be a strong testimony and a comfort to other sufferers.