

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

Everyone has trials and tribulations in life. From macro (big) trials to micro (small) trials. No matter how much we wish it to be true, life is not always sunshine and roses. Jesus taught that life was not a cake walk but a faith walk. Believers are not exempt from the common problems and difficulties all people face. They also face persecution for their faith from the hostile world system.

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)

HOW DO WE RISE ABOVE THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF LIFE SO WE CAN STILL BE HAPPY?

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

James 1:2-4, “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.

A. Life is uncertain and things happen to us for a number of reasons.

1. Sometimes it's our own fault.
2. Sometimes it is just an accident.
3. Sometimes it is just a part of God's plan for our lives.

Phil. 1:12-14, “And I want you to know this, dear brothers: Everything that has happened to me here has been a great boost in getting out the Good News concerning Christ. For everyone around here, including all the soldiers over at the barracks, knows that I am in chains simply because I am a Christian. And because of my imprisonment, many of the Christians here seem to have lost their fear of chains! Somehow my patience has encouraged them, and they have become more and more bold in telling others about Christ.” (TLB)

Rom. 8:35 & 37, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?...Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor

angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (KJV)

B. When we doubt God=s love for us here are some of the results.

1. Self-condemnation
2. Discouragement
3. Depression
4. A lack of confidence
5. Low self-esteem
6. Defeated living

C. Christ loves us even in the worst of circumstances.

Rom. 8:35-37, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: ‘For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.’ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” (NKJV)

D. God says that no matter what comes your way, you cannot be separated from His love and you can continue to put your faith and trust in Him regardless of the circumstances.

E. Reminding yourself of Christ's love is the thing that will carry you through the most extreme experiences and pains of life.

F. There is nothing in the universe that can separate you from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. You can be fully persuaded of this glorious fact.

G. Why then, do these things happen to us sometime?

Rom. 8:28, “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.” (NKJV)

1. They are working together for our good.

What are you going through right now that is making it hard for you to be happy?