

I. The Particulars about Trials (v6)

- A. As a result of their position, possession, and protection in God, there should be a gladness of soul expressed outwardly as they face various trials.
- B. Trials don't last always; they are for a season but are necessary, even inevitable, to accomplish God's purpose for their lives.
- C. Trials come in various forms and varieties and will bring difficulties to their lives.

II. The Purpose of Trials (v7)

- A. Various trials come to reveal the validity of your faith in Jesus Christ (which is more precious than gold) as God uses various difficult situations and circumstances to expose the level of your faith in Jesus Christ.
- B. Various trials come to develop you in your faith in Jesus Christ (which is purified like gold but not perishable like gold) as God uses various difficult situations and circumstance to cleanse the dross of sin off of you and to mature you in your faith in Jesus Christ.
- C. Various trials come to expose and develop your faith in Jesus Christ so that when He returns you will receive congratulations from Him, be transformed into His likeness, and receive special recognition from Him.

III. The Proper Response To Trials (v8)

- A. These saints responded to trials by walking in love (yielding one's mind, will, and affections to obedience to God) even though they had not seen Him.
- B. These saints responded to trials by walking in belief in Jesus Christ (to have confidence and trust in who He is and what He has promised) even though they were not seeing Him.
- C. The saints responded to trials by having a state of gladness that is verbally demonstrated with a sense of delight not able to be articulated with words and full of exaltation towards God.

IV. The Prize of The Proper Response to Trials (v9-v12)

- A. The saints anticipated the salvation of their souls into the perfect image of Jesus Christ as the prize of their genuine faith.
- B. This salvation was prophesied to us by prophets who longed to discover when the sufferings of Christ and the glories that come from that suffering would be happening.
- C. The prophets recognized that they were serving others in prophesying about this salvation, of which angels long to see the end result as well.

V. The Principles For Trials / In order to walk in love, belief and rejoicing, you must train in:

- A. *The Principle of Detachment as the fiery test motivates you to burn off the dross of sin in your life.*
 - 1. Turn away from desires and ways of life that have captivated your soul above obedience to God as you go through the various trials. (Hebrews 12:1)
 - 2. Learn to live with the physical pain and emotional pain that comes from detoxing, denial, disappointment, difficulty, and dishabituation (stopping a way of doing something) in relation to turning away from those desires and ways of life that have captivated your heart above obedience to God as you go through the various trials. (1 Peter 4:1-2)
- B. *The Principle of Development as the fiery test motivates you to continue in the discipline of obedience in your life.*
 - 1. Learn to persevere in Christ-like character development and service unto the Lord in all aspects of life as you go through various trials. (Romans 5:1-5, 2 Timothy 3:1)
 - 2. Learn to live with the physical and emotional pain that comes from the inconveniences, the afflictions, and the hardships of training in obedience to God in character development and service unto the Lord in all aspects of life, as you go through various trials. (James 1:2-4, 2 Corinthians 4:7-18)
- C. *The Principle of Delight as the fiery test motivates you to increase your trust/satisfaction in God and the anticipation of the blessings He will bring in His return.*
 - 1. Learn to enjoy the presence of God by embracing the characteristics of God that are most appropriate in your time of detachment and development as you go through various trials. (Psalm 23)
 - 2. Learn to enjoy the benefits God has provided in the present while anticipating the promises He has for you in the future in your time of detachment and development as you go through various trials. (Psalm 23)

Key points to consider:

1. Because of our position, possession and protection in God, we should have the right responses to the various trials God determines are necessary for us to encounter, while anticipating how God will use those trials to His glory and our benefit.
2. God has called us to rejoice in the benefits of our salvation as we face various trials.
3. God interprets our earthly trials as “little” in comparison to our eternal glory that will last forever.
4. The various trials we encounter will bring pain to our lives.
5. Trials come to expose and develop our faith in the person and promises of God.
6. Where there is genuine faith there will be love, belief, and rejoicing in the midst of the various trials we encounter.
7. Genuine faith will result in faith development in the Lord Jesus Christ and character development into the perfect image of Jesus Christ.
8. Genuine faith will result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ returns; it will also result in receiving the ultimate reward of our salvation when Christ returns.