

## “Why God Allows Adversity in Our Lives?” Part 2

How to Handle Adversity, Part 6

March 26, 2020

### 7 Reasons Why God Allows Adversity in Our Lives

1. God allows adversity into our lives to get our **ATTENTION**
2. To remind us of His great love, God uses adversity in our lives as a form of **DISCIPLINE**
3. God uses adversity to draw our attention to potentially **DANGEROUS** blind spots, habits, or emotional baggage from our past
4. God allows adversity in our lives to conquer our **PRIDE**  
2 Corinthians 12:7 (NCV) “So that I would not become too proud of the wonderful things that were shown to me, a painful physical problem was given to me. This problem was a messenger from Satan, sent to beat me and keep me from being too proud.”

God knows your **POTENTIAL** for His kingdom; He knows what kind of **INFLUENCE** you could have

God has **CHOSEN** you to **REPRESENT** Him within your sphere of influence

God is not the only One who recognizes your potential – **SATAN** sees it as well

Satan knows that nothing **FORFEITS** a man’s or woman’s **USEFULNESS** to God like pride

Proverbs 16:18 (NCV) “Pride leads to destruction; a proud attitude brings ruin.”

James 4:6 (NLT) “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

A believer who becomes proud is living in **OPPOSITION** to God; the Christian life is designed to be

a life of **DEPENDENCY**

Pride is always followed by **DESTRUCTION** of some kind

5. God allows adversity into our lives to cause us to rely on His **STRENGTH** instead of our own

The **GREATER** the odds, the **BETTER** for God

1 Corinthians 1:27-29 (GN) “<sup>27</sup> God purposely chose what the world considers nonsense in order to shame the wise, and He chose what the world considers weak in order to shame the powerful. <sup>28</sup> He chose what the world looks down on and despises and thinks is nothing, in order to destroy what the world thinks is important. <sup>29</sup> This means that no one can boast in God’s presence.”

Adversities always **HANDICAP** us in some way; they rob us of the **RESOURCES** we need to function properly

Adversity in the hands of God becomes the means through which His **SUPERNATURAL** power is demonstrated

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (GN) “<sup>9</sup> But His answer was: ‘My grace is all you need, for My power is greatest when you are weak.’ I am most happy, then, to be proud of my weaknesses, in order to feel the protection of Christ’s power over me. <sup>10</sup> ...For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

From God’s perspective, it was more important for Paul to experience supernatural **POWER** than it was for him to live a pain-free, adversity-free **LIFE**

1 Corinthians 12:10 (GN) “I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and difficulties for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Your biggest **WEAKNESS** is God’s greatest **OPPORTUNITY**

6. God allows adversity so that He can demonstrate His **FAITHFULNESS** & in turn increase our

**FAITH**

If our lives are free from pain, turmoil, and sorrow, our knowledge of God will remain purely

**ACADEMIC**

Psalm 34:4, 6-7, 19 (NCV & GN) “4 I asked the LORD for help, and He answered me. He saved me from all that I feared... 6 The helpless call to Him, and He answers; He saves them from all their troubles. 7 His angel guards those who honor the LORD and rescues them from danger... 19 People who do what is right may have many problems, but the LORD will solve them all.”

God is always **FAITHFUL** to His promises; but He does not promise to always work things out the

way we **THINK** they **SHOULD BE**

God’s faithfulness does not always take the form of **DELIVERANCE** from adversity; many times God

demonstrates His faithfulness by **SUSTAINING** us through adversity

Oftentimes God demonstrates His faithfulness in adversity by providing for us what we need to

**SURVIVE**

Hebrews 4:16 (NIV) “16 Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV) “But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”

7. God allows adversity in our lives to prepare us to **COMFORT** & **ENCOURAGE** others who are facing similar circumstances

2 Corinthians 1:3-4, 6 (NIV & GW) “3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God... 6 Besides, if we suffer, it brings you comfort and salvation. If we are comforted, we can effectively comfort you when you endure the same sufferings that we endure.”

To comfort is “to impart **STRENGTH & HOPE**” to others

To job of a comforter is to move the others from relying on their **OWN** strength to that of

**CHRIST**

To impart hope is to enable others to take their focus off their immediate **CIRCUMSTANCES** and place it on **ETERNAL** things

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NIV) “16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

Your **RESPONSE** to adversity will **DETERMINE** whether or not God can use you to comfort others

It is a very **POOR** comforter who has never needed **COMFORTING**

**My Next Step Today Is:**

- My prayer today, “God conquer the pride in my life. During difficult times teach me to rely on Your strength. Thank You for Your faithfulness in my life, that You always do what You promise. Use me to comfort others with same comfort You have given me.”
- I will spend some time this week going back over my notes & thinking about how God wants to use adversity in my life

Join us next week as we conclude this series by looking at **“What Paul discovered about adversity!”** (10 things)