

**DON'T WASTE YOUR TRIALS**  
**PART 2**  
**1 PETER 1:3-9**

**Introduction**

Last Sunday morning we began to look at the subject of “*Don't Waste Your Trials.*”

We said that even we who rejoice in Christ, suffer grief from all kinds of trials and tribulations in this life just as much, if not more so, than those who don't know Christ.

*We looked at PART 1–THE DESIGN OF OUR TRIALS and we said:*

- I. WE WASTE OUR TRIALS WHEN WE DON'T SEE THEM AS BEING DESIGNED BY GOD FOR US!*
- II. WE WASTE OUR TRIALS WHEN WE DON'T SEE THEM AS BEING DESIGNED BY GOD FOR HIS GLORY!*

This morning we continue on the thought of “Don't Waste Your Trials”

**III. WE WASTE OUR TRIALS WHEN WE VIEW THEM AS A CURSE AND NOT AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR BLESSING!**

**A. We Can View Our Trials As A Curse And Cause Ourselves And Others Heartaches!**

Some people stop being faithful to God and stop serving God when trials come.

For those who are truly born again this just deepens their problem as now they have to deal with the chastening hand of a loving God.

I've said it before and I'll say it again, God loves us too much to leave us in our backslidden condition. However...

**B. We Can View Our Trials As An Opportunity For Blessing And Bring About Blessing To Ourselves And To Others!**

To illustrate this I want to use a couple of Biblical examples.

**1. Joseph in Genesis 45:5, 8; 50:20.**

If Joseph's attitude had been wrong, he would have missed out on the opportunity to become a blessing.

But, Joseph's attitude was that God sent him to Egypt for a

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reason.

**2. Paul and Silas in Acts 16:19-34.**

Think about if Paul and Silas had displayed a bad attitude in the midst of their trial, do you think they might have missed the opportunity to be a blessing to the Philippian jailor and his family?

But, Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises to God in the midst of trials.

And through their witness, souls were saved and lives were changed!

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**IV. WE WASTE OUR TRIALS WHEN WE TRY TO HANDLE THEM OURSELVES RATHER THAN LEAN ON GOD'S GRACE! (2 Chronicles 16)**

Here we see that King Asa tried to handle his own problems.

What a great opportunity he had to showcase God and His glory, but he chose to try to handle the problem himself and it cost him.

Did you ever try to handle a problem by yourself and make an absolute mess out of it?

I know I sure have!

*2 Corinthians 3:5–“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;”*

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**V. WE WASTE OUR TRIALS WHEN WE ALLOW THEM TO GET**

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**OUR FOCUS ON OURSELVES OR OUR PROBLEMS RATHER THAN ON GOD!**

- A. Ten Of Twelve Spies And Israel Focused On Themselves And Their Problems Rather Than God!  
(Numbers 13:25-33; 14)**
- B. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego Focused On God Rather Than Their Problems! (Daniel 3:12-18)**

When we are in the midst of trials, it is important that our focus be on God and not on ourselves or our problems!

**VI. WE WASTE OUR TRIALS WHEN WE SEEK COMFORT FROM EVERYWHERE ELSE BUT GOD!**

**(1 Peter 5:6-11; 2 Corinthians 1:3-5)**

*1 Samuel 30:6—“And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.”*

*Psalms 27:13-14—“I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. 14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.”*

*Psalms 55:22—“Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.”*

*Psalms 56:3-4—“What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. 4 In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.”*

*Hebrews 13:5-6—“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

*6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”*

*Psalms 34:15—“The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears*

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*are open unto their cry.”*

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**Conclusion**

Have you gone through some trials lately? What did those trials do for you? Did they crush you? Or did they strengthen you?

Maybe you're going through some difficult trial right now. How are you handling it? Are you looking for God's purpose in it all?

Are you viewing it as a curse or as an opportunity to both receive a blessing and be a blessing?

Are you trying to handle the trial yourself or have you tapped in to God's sweet grace to get you through the trial?

Is your focus on yourself and your problems or on God?

Where are you seeking comfort in your trial? From the preacher? From your family? From your friends? From the world? Or from God?

Maybe you've not faced a trial lately. But in this life one could easily come today, tomorrow, or in the not too distant future.

Are you prepared to handle it in a way that will honor God?

Let me tell you that if you don't know God you are not ready for the trials that this life can throw at you.

Remember what Job said, “Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.”

Why don't you come to the Lord Jesus Christ today so that you can have someone to cast your care upon when the troublesome time come?