



**Heart of Grace
Ministries**
Faith, Family and Love

The Purpose of a Trial

1 Peter 4:12-14

[12] Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

[13] But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

[14] If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

A Christian's life begins with a spiritual birth (**John 3:3-5**)

[3] Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

[4] Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

[5] Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

- God's plan is birth, growth and maturity
- God uses the bible, the church and other believers to bring growth
- God uses trials bring us into maturity (spiritual perfection)

So why do we as Christians have trials? (v. 12)

“Think it not strange”

- Christians have trials because we live in a sinful world
- We live in a world of turmoil and natural disasters
- We live in a world of crime, sickness and death
- We are a part of a straying generation (**Romans 3:10-18**)

[10] As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

[11] There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

[12] They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

[13] Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

[14] Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

[15] Their feet are swift to shed blood:

[16] Destruction and misery are in their ways:

[17] And the way of peace have they not known:

[18] There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Christians have trials because of the power of Satan

- Satan is our adversary
- Consider his attack on Job
- He is as a roaring lion (**1 Peter 5:8**)

[8] Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Christians are on a collision course with the world

- Jesus warned us of this conflict (**John 15:18-20**)

[18] If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

[19] If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

[20] Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater

than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

- Many have suffered and died for Christ (**Hebrews 11:36-40**)

[36] And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

[37] They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

[38] (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

[39] And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

[40] God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

What makes our trials different? Why would they be worth making it through?
(v. 13)

- We do not suffer alone (**Hebrews 13:5-6**)

[5] 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.

- We become partakers of Christ's sufferings (v. 13)
- We can even find joy in jeopardy (**Acts 16:25-32**)

[25] And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

[26] And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of

the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

[27] And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.

[28] But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.

[29] Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,

[30] And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

[31] And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

[32] And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

- There is a design in our difficulties (**Romans 8:28-29**)

[28] And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

[29] For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

- And after it is all said and done our trials will come to glory (**Romans 8:17-18**)

[17] And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

[18] For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.