



Job 5:6-7

For affliction does not come from the dust,
nor does trouble sprout from the ground,
but man is born to trouble as the sparks fly
upward.



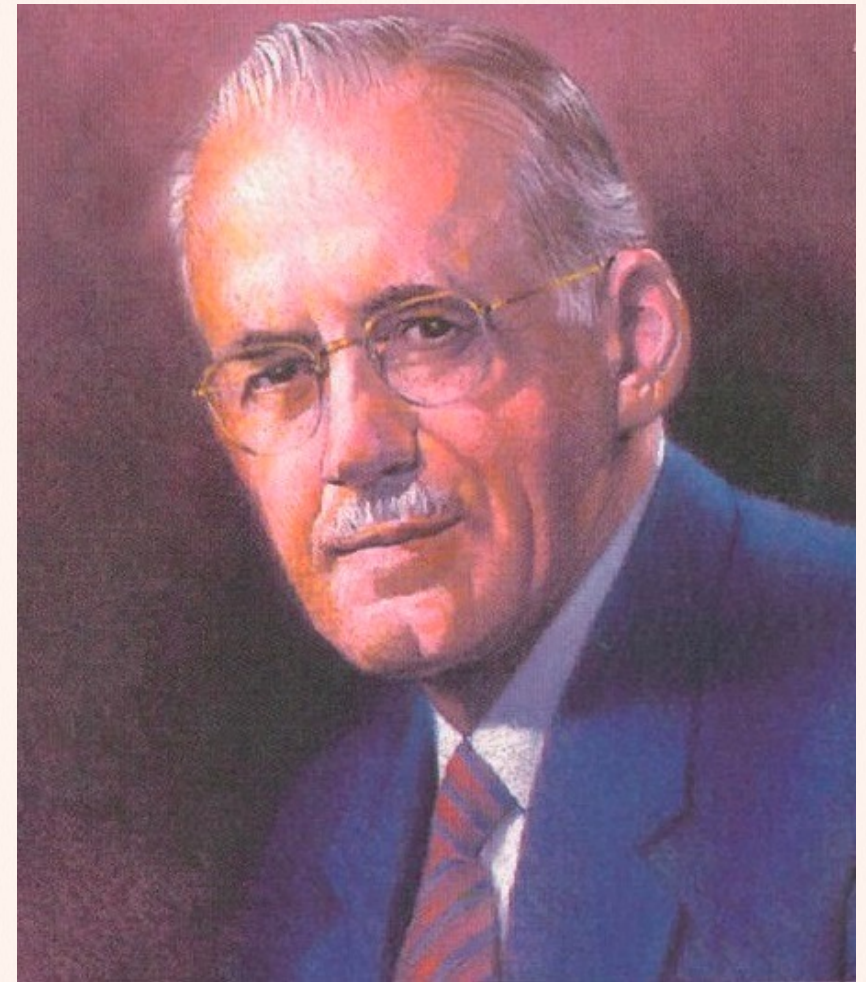
“Count it all joy, my brothers
when you meet trials of various
kinds...”

When that next pain, inconvenience, disappointment, or life-altering news strikes...

- Do you have a “victim” mentality, or “victor” mentality?
- Do you view your trial as meaningless, or purposeful?
- Is your goal to just get through it, or to seek God & learn from it?
- Do you grumble and complain, or do you count it all joy?
- Do you believe God is angrily punishing you, or lovingly perfecting you?

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“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”



A.W. Tozer

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James 1:1-12

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James 1:3

...for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

Hebrews 4:15

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

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Hebrews 2:10

For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.



James 1:4

And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.



1 Peter 1:3-7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.



1 Peter 1:3-7

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.



Romans 5:1-5

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

“Trials teach us what we are; they dig up the soil, and let us see what we are made of.”



C.H. Spurgeon



1 John 2:15

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.



“Suffering keeps swelling our feet,
so that earth’s shoes won’t fit.”

- Joni Earekson Tada

Hebrews 12:11

For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.



How do I know if my trial is the result of:

- A. God wanting to test me, to prove if my faith is genuine
- B. My own foolishness or poor choices
- C. Merely living in a fallen world
- D. A loving discipline to wean me from a specific sin?



James 1:5-8

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.



2 Corinthians 4:16-18

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.



James 1:9-11

Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away.

For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.



Jeremiah 9:23-24

Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.”



James 1:12

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.



God is more concerned with conforming me to the likeness of His Son than leaving me in my comfort zones. God is more interested in inward qualities than outward circumstances - things like refining my faith, humbling my heart, cleaning up my thought life and strengthening my character.

— *Joni Eareckson Tada* —

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James 1:12

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

Christ isn't looking down his nose at your suffering. He isn't disappointed you haven't figured everything out. He isn't waiting for you to submit a report on the lessons you learned from your pain before he grants you his presence. He simply wants you to collapse into his loving arms.



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We have a sympathetic Savior who walks with us, grieves with us, and redeems our suffering for good—often teaching us precious lessons through hardships.



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Let's rejoice in these lessons while also remembering that God's purposes in our suffering are far greater than a lesson—and that one day Christ will return to save us, heal us, and unburden our suffering fully and forever.



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