

# How to Handle Our Adversity

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## I. Introduction.

A. Adversity can be an opportunity for great spiritual growth.

B. Text: II Corinthians 12.

## II. Adversity is universal.

## III. How to respond to adversity.

A. It is okay to ask God why this adversity came. God does not mind if we ask Him why. One should keep asking why even if the answer is not imminent.

1. God is more interested in what we are becoming than what we are feeling.

2. God will give us what we need in order to keep us from destroying ourselves—even if it is pain.

B. We should ask who is responsible for the adversity.

1. Often, we are responsible because of our willful disobedience.

2. There is always a limitation on our suffering though.

C. We should not look for someone to blame.

D. We should not look for some form of escape.

E. We should not give up. We need to look for resurrection power in the midst of suffering.

## IV. How adversity can be an opportunity.

A. Adversity reveals our real view of God.

B. Adversity reveals a true picture of us.

C. Adversity reveals the place of things in our lives.

D. Adversity reveals our weaknesses and strengths.

E. Adversity can reveal our willingness to forgive.

F. Adversity reveals our faith in God.

G. God sets a limitation on our trials. (I Corinthians 10:13)

V. We should thank God for our adversity.

- A. It is God's choice tool for building character and ministry.
- B. God chooses the area of our life for adversity because He knows that that is an area that needs it. All adversity has a design. (Romans 8:28)
  - 1. Adversity protects us from our pride.
  - 2. Adversity demonstrates God's faithfulness.
  - 3. Adversity helps us comfort others.

VI. Steps.

- A. Acknowledge God.
- B. Repent of the disobedience if there is some.
- C. Ask God for His goal in the adversity.
- D. Surrender to God.
- E. Rest by faith.

**Application questions:**

1. How would you respond to someone who says that asking God why you are suffering is irreverent?

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2. Which revelation of adversity stands out to you? What strikes you about it?

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3. What principles would you recommend to someone struggling with a great deal of adversity in his or her life? Explain.

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