

Teaching a Timothy about Trials

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 5.

B. Paul's method about follow-up was to teach people about trials. (Acts 14:22)

II. We rejoice in tribulation because it produces character. (Romans 8:29, Psalm 37:23, I Thessalonians 5:18)

A. We do not give thanks for everything but thanks in everything.

B. All things are not good, but God works all together for good.

C. God only allowed Satan to touch Job to the degree that He permitted.

D. Sometimes God prepares special situations that swallow us up to get our attention. (Job 23:14)

E. God's number one purpose is to make a person like Christ. (Colossians 1:28)

1. Through the Bible. (John 17:17, I Corinthians 3:18)

2. Through difficulties like Christ. (Romans 8:28, Hebrews 5:8, 2:10)

a. God cares about your circumstance, He can change it, but He will not change it until a person has learned a lesson that he can bring out of it.

b. God is more interested in making a person like Christ than making his circumstances better.

c. Christ responded by glorifying God in every situation.

3. When you learn to praise God for what bugs you, it will change you or it will stop if it is the devil.

III. The perfect picture of Jesus. (Galatians 5)

A. God produces the fruit of the Spirit by putting a person into exactly opposite situations.

B. God uses situations to take things out of a person's life that He wants to. God is in control.

Application questions:

1. What is God's intention for allowing suffering according to Scripture?

2. What does it mean that God produces the fruit of the Spirit by putting a person into an exactly opposite situation?

3. Have you ever been challenged in an area by being put in someone's life who was hard to tolerate? What did God have to teach you from that event?
