

Trusting God for the Results

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I. Introduction.

A. God has not revealed His sovereign will to us, but He has revealed His moral will to us and our response should be obedience. (Deuteronomy 29:29)

B. The adversity that comes out of His sovereign is part of how God develops Christ-like character in us.

C. Text: James 1:2-4.

II. Our desire is to escape from adversity, but God uses it to develop us.

A. God will not remove that adversity from our lives until it has accomplished its purpose.

B. God is in control of that adversity and knows that we will emerge from it beautiful.

C. God will not fail in accomplishing the objective that He chosen to meet with that adversity. (Philippians 1:6)

D. Because of these things, we must choose to trust God in the midst of suffering. We must change our attitude toward suffering.

1. We will find that God's grace is sufficient for us if we choose to trust Him.

2. This does not mean that we will experience less pain. It just means that we believe that God is at work through the pain. (1 Thessalonians 5:18; Romans 8:28)

III. There are four beneficial effects of adversity.

A. Adversity will cause us to know God on a more intimate level. (Job 42:5; Psalm 27:4; Philippians 3:10)

B. We grow in Christ like character. (Romans 8:28-29; Hebrews 12:10-11)

C. We have greater fruitfulness in our own lives. (John 12:24)

1. Adversity often means that some aspect of our lives must die- goals, abilities, etc.

2. God has to prune us in order to bring about great fruit in our lives. (John 15)

D. Adversity gives us hope for eternal life. (Romans 8:18, 24-25)

IV. We must store up the promises of God in our hearts so that the Holy Spirit can use them to help us trust God in times of adversity. (Psalm 119:11)

Application questions:

1. Is there adversity in your life that you are resisting? What might God's purpose be for that adversity?

2. How does the thought that God never wastes pain bring hope to you?

3. Think of times in your life that you have experienced adversity. Do you see any growth in Christ-like character? Any increase in intimacy between you and God? Any greater fruitfulness? Did your hope grow?
