



## Bible Study

### Eight Purposes of Trials – What is God up to?

Why do we go through trials? Why doesn't God just save us, the keep us from all harm?

#### **1. To test the strength of our faith and obedience**

##### **Exodus 16:4 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

<sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. This way I will test them to see whether or not they will follow My instructions.

##### **2 Chronicles 32:31 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

<sup>31</sup> When the ambassadors of Babylon's rulers were sent to him to inquire about the miraculous sign that happened in the land, God left him to test him and discover what was in his heart.

#### **2. To humble us, to remind us not to let our trust in the Lord turn into presumption and self-satisfaction. The greater our blessing, the more Satan will temp us to look on them as a right, or as a result of our own accomplishments**

##### **2 Corinthians 12:6-7 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

<sup>6</sup> For if I want to boast, I will not be a fool, because I will be telling the truth. But I will spare you, so that no one can credit me with something beyond what he sees in me or hears from me, <sup>7</sup> especially because of the extraordinary revelations. Therefore, so that I would not exalt myself, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to torment me so I would not exalt myself.

### **3. To wean us from our dependence on worldly things**

#### **John 6:5-7 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

<sup>5</sup> Therefore, when Jesus looked up and noticed a huge crowd coming toward Him, He asked Philip, "Where will we buy bread so these people can eat?" <sup>6</sup> He asked this to test him, for He Himself knew what He was going to do.

<sup>7</sup> Philip answered, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread wouldn't be enough for each of them to have a little."

**Then what happened? What did Philip learn?**

#### **Hebrews 11:24-26 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

<sup>24</sup> By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter <sup>25</sup> and chose to suffer with the people of God rather than to enjoy the short-lived pleasure of sin. <sup>26</sup> For he considered reproach for the sake of the Messiah to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, since his attention was on the reward.

### **4. To call us to eternal and heavenly hope – the more we have trials, the more we look forward to being with the Lord**

#### **Romans 8:18-25 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

<sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation eagerly waits with anticipation for God's sons to be revealed. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility—not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it—in the hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage of corruption into the glorious freedom of God's children. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together with labor pains until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only that, but we ourselves who have the Spirit as the firstfruits—we also groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> Now in this hope we were saved, yet hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patience.

## **5. To reveal who – or what - we really love**

### **Genesis 22:11-12 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

<sup>11</sup> But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!"

He replied, "Here I am."

<sup>12</sup> Then He said, "Do not lay a hand on the boy or do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your only son from Me."

## **6. To teach us the value of God's blessings – through trials, we learn to value the spiritual things of God**

### **Psalms 63:3-7 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

<sup>3</sup> My lips will glorify You  
because Your faithful love is better than life.

<sup>4</sup> So I will praise You as long as I live;  
at Your name, I will lift up my hands.

<sup>5</sup> You satisfy me as with rich food;  
my mouth will praise You with joyful lips.

<sup>6</sup> When, on my bed, I think of You,  
I meditate on You during the night watches

<sup>7</sup> because You are my help;  
I will rejoice in the shadow of Your wings.

## **7. To develop enduring strength for greater usefulness**

### **Hebrews 11:33-34 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

<sup>33</sup> who by faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the raging of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, gained strength after being weak, became mighty in battle, and put foreign armies to flight.

**Isaiah 41:10 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

<sup>10</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you;  
do not be afraid, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you; I will help you;  
I will hold on to you with My righteous right hand

**8. To enable us to better help others in their trials**

**Luke 22:31-32 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

<sup>31</sup> "Simon, Simon, look out! Satan has asked to sift you like wheat. <sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And you, when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

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