



The Discipleship Project of Horizon Central

Level #1 Series #3 Study #5

Topic: Trials & Temptations

Our Christian walk is not always a smooth ride (lots of bumps and holes). We Christians have difficulties and hardships like everyone else. However, we have God on our side, giving us strength to endure and persevere through the situations of life.

1. Trials and Temptations help us to draw closer to God. He allows these things to prove and improve our faith in Jesus and teach us to trust Him. Unlike temptations (where running away is definitely the best option) God means for us to persevere-hang in there-through times of testing. We may not get an answer for all our “whys” but we can take comfort in knowing that God only allows difficulties in our life to cause our faith to grow. He wants us to live by faith, not by feelings. Read the following passages to learn the purpose for trials.

**1Peter 1:6-7 James 1:2-4 2Corinthians 1:3-7**

2. What can we be certain of when going through trials?

**John 16:33 Luke 6:47-48 II Corinthians 4:7-18 Psalm 55:22 Isaiah 41:10**

3. God has given us His Holy Spirit so we can grow in our new spiritual nature. We need to know that our old sinful nature will still fight for control. When we trusted Christ to save us from sin, we defected from Satan’s army. The devil doesn’t want us to actually realize that sin’s power over us has been broken. He will assault us with doubts and try to hinder our spiritual growth. *But he is a defeated enemy.* As Ephesians 6:10 says “Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might”. Read the following passages to discover the difference between temptation and trials.

**John 10:10 James 1:13 James 1:2-4**

Simply put the purpose of a temptation is to entice us and draw us into sin. The purpose of a trial, or test, is to develop godly character or strengthen our faith.

4. How can we resist temptation?

**1Corinthians 10:13 James 4:7-10 1 John 4:4 Mathew 4:1-11 James 1:12**

5. Even if we fall and sin, we should not give up on being a Christian. Realize that God knows we aren’t perfect and still loves us. So, what if I mess things up?

**1John 1:9 1John 3:5**

6. Four practical ways to avoid and resist temptation:

- a. Humble yourself before God; **James 4:7**
- b. Resist the devil; **James 4:7; Mathew 4:1-11**
- c. Draw Close to God; **James 4:8**
- d. Wash your hands and purify your hearts; **James 4:8**