



“Understanding Adversity”

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Pt. 1. 2023

How many of us have experience some type of adversity in the past year? Adversities are an essential part of our lives.

Adversity is essential in our lives. Therefore, if God would deliver us out of every adversity instantly we would never reach our highest potential

We love Prosperity, is a great teacher; but adversity is greater.
Possession pampers the mind; but privation trains and strengthens it.

Difficult times allow us to appreciate the good ones. We learn when we suffer, no matter how painful it is.

Psalm 119:65-68; 72.

⁶⁵ You have done many good things for me, Lord, just as you promised. ⁶⁶ I believe in your commands; now teach me good judgment and knowledge. ⁶⁷ I used to wander off until you disciplined me; but now I closely follow your word.

⁶⁸ You are good and do only good; teach me your decrees. ⁷¹ My suffering was good for me, for it taught me to pay attention to your decrees.

⁷² Your instructions are more valuable to me than millions in gold and silver.

To understand Adversity let's respond three questions:

1. What is A _____?

Adversity comes in all shapes and sizes. Adversity is simply defined as hardship and suffering or as extremely unfavorable experience or event.

The word **adverse** means creating momentum in a direction opposite to what you desired.

Adversity is a transformational process That God allows in your life

James 1:2-4

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Rom. 5

³ We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴ And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. ⁵ And this hope will not lead to disappointment.

- Adversity can be our greatest motivation for growth, or our deadliest means of discouragement.
- “We don’t develop courage by being happy every day. We develop courage by surviving difficult times and challenging adversity.”
- “All the adversity I’ve had in my life, all my troubles and obstacles, have strengthened me... You may not realize it when it happens, but a kick in the teeth may be the best thing in the world for you.” – **Walt Disney**
- “Adversity causes some men to break; others to break records.” –

2. Where does adversity C _____ from?

a. It can come from God when He wants to get our attention

When adversity comes, we are forced to face problems and pressures that are too big for us to resolve. In this way, God gets our attention. We can’t continue to pursue our goals, tasks, and relationships in the same manner. We must stop and evaluate our situation, ask God for wisdom, obey His Word, and trust Him to bring the help we need.

Psalm 86

A prayer of David.

¹ Bend down, O Lord, and hear my prayer; answer me, for I need your help. ² Protect me, for I am devoted to you. Save me, for I serve you and trust you. You are my God. ³ Be merciful to me, O Lord, for I am calling on you constantly. ⁴ Give me happiness, O Lord, for I give myself to you.

⁵ O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive, so full of unfailing love for all who ask for your help. ⁶ Listen closely to my prayer, O Lord; hear my urgent cry. ⁷ I will call to you whenever I’m in trouble, and you will answer me.

b. It can come from other people (Fallen world)

c. It can be a consequence or a result of a bad decision. Wrong actions have consequences...

Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, "Because you have not obeyed My words, behold, I will send and take all the families of the north," declares the LORD, "and I will send to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land and against its inhabitants and against all these nations round about . . . This whole land will be a desolation and a horror, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years." (Jeremiah 25:8-9, 11)

"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap" (Galatians 6:7)

d. No matter the reason, "God always has a purpose"

Job 1:20 *"He fell to the ground to worship"*

21 *"he said, I came to this world with nothing, and I will leave with nothing" The Lord gave me what I had, and the Lord has taken it away. Praise the name of the Lord!"*

v. 22. *He didn't blame God because God always has a purpose in everything He allows in our life's"*

God always has a plan: Jeremiah 29:11. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD,

Mordecai said to Esther: Esther 4:14. *Perhaps you were born for such a time as this.*

Romans 8:28. *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

Proverbs 3:5-6. *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

3. What is the P of adversity?

A. GOD USES ADVERSITY TO CATCH OUR ATTENTION. (Amos 4:12)

1) When troubles come, it is often a reminder to look to God. (Ps 25:1,2)

"Before I was afflicted, I went astray; but now have I kept thy word." (Psa 119:67)

"It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes." (Psa 119:71)

2) It often takes pain to get us to change. (Prodigal in Luke 15)

B. GOD USES ADVERSITY TO CALL US TO SELF EXAMINATION. (1 Cor. 11:31-32)

C. GOD USES ADVERSITY TO CONQUER OUR PRIDE. (Pr. 8:13)

1) Pride is at the root of many of our conflicts. "Only by pride comes contention:" (Prov 13:10)

2) Pride puts us at odds with God. "God resist the proud..." Jam .4:6-7)

3) The only antidote for Pride is Humility. "God....give grace unto the humble." Ja 4:7

D. GOD USES ADVERSITY TO CAUSE US TO CRY TO HIM. (Ps. 34:7; 86:3)

"The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles." (Psa 34:17)

"Then call on me when you are in trouble, and I will rescue you, and you will give me glory." (Psa 50:15)

Note: David Cried out to God 53 times in the Psalms.

E. GOD USES ADVERSITY TO REMOVES SHALLOW FRIENDS (2 Tim 4:10)

"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." (Prov 17:17)

1) David's adversity became the proving ground for life-long companions.

2) Paul's adversity became the sift to separate Demas. (Timothy and Luke stayed.)

3) Jesus' adversity became the sift to remove Judas.

F. GOD USES ADVERSITY TO EQUIP US TO COMFORT OTHERS. 2 Cor. 1:3-5

G. GOD USES ADVERSITY TO BRING US TO THE FEET OF JESUS.

Matthew 11:28. ²⁸ *Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.*

The pain of adversity Will eventually fade but the lessons will remain and those lessons will strengthen you to face your next battle