

Study #3 Trails and Temptations

The Christian life is not always a bed of roses. Like everyone else, the Christian has difficulties and hardships. However, the Christian has God with him, giving him strength to endure it and understanding to know what is taking place.

Trials are tests that God allows to happen to us to show whether we are really loving and trusting Him, or to cause us to grow spiritually.

1. How important is the trail of our faith? (1 Peter 1:6-7) – “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love.”

2. Jesus gave and illustration in Matthew 7:24-27. – “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will like him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

Who is like a wise man that built on a rock? (Verse 24) – However hears the sayings of the Lord, and does them.

What happened when the trials came his way? (Verse 25) – “...and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock”

Who is like a foolish man that built on sand? (Verse 26) – “everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them...”

What happened when the trials came his way? (Verse 27) – “...and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

3. What good do these test produce? (James 1:2-4) – “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

Many times when our faith is on trail, we also experience temptation to sin. We may find ourselves feeling bad, or having bad thoughts, or bad circumstances. We will be trying to believe what God had said about His love and faithfulness, and we will get a thought or impulse to loose faith and do something wrong. This is a temptation, and can come anytime, even when we aren't in a trial.

4. **Who is our enemy? (1 Peter 5:8)** – “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”
5. **What are the three areas that we are tempted in? (1 John 2:16)** – “For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world.”
6. **Look at 1 Corinthians 10:13.** – “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

Is your temptation unique? No. “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man...”

Is it more that you can take? No. “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able,...”

Are you trapped in it without help? No. “...but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”
7. **Who gives us strength to meet temptation? (Philippians 4:13)** – “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
8. **Why is He able to make us victorious? (1 John 4:4)** – “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them (false prophets)*, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” *added for clarity

The devil did not just appear after you became a Christian. He has been around all this time, but you may not have been aware of his activity.

9. **Who was influencing your life before you were a child of God? (Ephesians 2:1-2)** – “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience...”

If you asked a cloud about the wind, he would say; “What wind? I just move.” He goes wherever the wind blows. But, if you asked a tree about the wind, he would know about it because he fights against it everyday. This is a picture of our past and present relationship with the devil and temptation.

10. **What are two things we should do in temptation? (James 4:7)** – “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

It is not a sin to be tempted. It is only a sin when we give in to temptation. Even Jesus Christ, himself, experienced temptation.

- 11. Read Matthew 4:1-11. In verses 4, 7 and 10 what did Jesus use to meet Satan's attacks?** The word of God.
- 12. What has God promised to the one who endures trials and temptations? (James 1:12)** – “Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord had promised to those who love Him.”

***** What If I Blow It? *****

- 13. Even if we fail and sin, we should not give up on being a Christian. Realize that God knows we aren't perfect and still loves us. What should we do if/when we sin? (1 John 1:9)** – “If we confess our sins, “He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
What will God do in response? “...He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
- 14. Overcoming sin and responding correctly when we have sinned are both part of our life with God. Why was Jesus manifested? (1 John 3:5)** – “And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.”