



The Gift of Trials—Part 2  
Relying on a Faithful God  
From Sermon 12.13.20

Read *James 1:2 & 2 Corinthians 1:8-10*

Review from Sunday's sermon: One gift of trials is that they set the conditions for a miracle. Another is that they force us to rely on God. The challenges of life come from several sources. Regardless of the source, God can use it to His glory and our blessing. Additionally, He has promised that we will never go through them alone—He will be with us and give us resources...even if no miracle is coming. Joseph's journey in the Christmas account gives us a good example of all these truths.

Sources of Trials

1. Name the three basic types of challenge/hardship faced by genuine Christians. Also, cite the source of each and read the corresponding Scriptures.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
Trials	<u>Living in a sinful/fallen world</u>	<i>Genesis 3:17-19 &amp; John 16:33</i>
<u>Temptations</u>	From the enemy to trip us up	<i>Luke 22:31 &amp; James 1:13-14</i>
Tests	<u>From God to use as a gauge</u>	<i>Genesis 22:10-17 &amp; 1 Peter 6-8</i> <i>1 Chronicles 29:17 &amp; Jeremiah 20:12</i>

2. The root word/term used in most translations of these three means "Pressure/Squeeze to a breaking point". What important and memorable truth should be obvious when we go through them? Just as a squeezed orange should produce orange juice and a squeeze grape produce grape juice, a Christian under pressure should exude Christ/Christ-like character (vs. worldly reactions)

3. From Sunday, what was listed as the common pattern of addressing trials? Confusion, Fear, & Developing a Human Plan

3a. What two next steps, demonstrated by Joseph, should be part of our discipleship and practice? Turning to the Word of the Lord and Carrying out an Obedience often Beyond Logic.

3b. Key verse: *Proverbs 3:5-6* [Trusting with all your heart lesson with the Hebrew definition vs. trusting with our mouth or mind only.]

3c. In your trials, where do you tend to stop or get stuck? Various personal answers.

3d. What are some ways you could trust God more and pass the test? Various personal answers

4. In our reliance on God, is just having/hearing the Word of God enough? No. We must do what it says. Joseph got up and did the hard work. Opposite Example: the Pharisees of Jesus' day had Word. But, they did not do what it said. See also *Matthew 7:26-27*

5. Discuss the statements: God loves you enough to strip away every other resource, safety net, god-of-our-making, & option, until He's the only resource you have left. You won't fully learn to trust God, until God is all you have to trust in.

6. Do you have your own personal example of either of these truths? \_\_\_\_\_