

INTRODUCTION

It is God's intention that we grow in adversity. God has the power to use adversity to refine our faith in Him. His desire is to show Himself strong and mighty while removing from us impurities and free radicals that can derail our faith. After refinement, what remains is emerging potential and a revelation of untapped strength. This study provides principles that will strengthen the confidence, perseverance and courage needed by believers to trust God and His ability to grow us up during hard times.

CORE SCRIPTURES:

- Psalms 92:12
- 1 Peter 1: 6-7 NLT
- Psalms 27: 3 & 13 NIV
- 2 Thessalonians 1:4 NIV
- Daniel 3: 16-27 NIV

WORD:

A. Quotes

- "Every adversity, every failure, every heartache carries with it the seed of an equal or greater benefit." - Napoleon Hill
- "There are uses to adversity, and they don't reveal themselves until tested. Whether it's serious illness, financial hardship, etc. difficulty can tap unexpected strengths." - Sonia Solomayo

B. Growth Principles

1. You are being Prepared for what's Ahead

- Beware of having a Microscope vs. Telescope way of life
- Some people only see the trouble of today rather than the triumph of tomorrow.

2. Trials are temporary but Faith is Eternal

- Reverend Timothy Wright used to sing a song: 'Trouble Don't Last Always'
- Don't make long term decisions based on short term problems

3. Don't respond to adversity by asking the question, "Why me?"

- We must develop a new response

C. How to Develop a New Response

1. Confidence - Trust that God is in Control

- Psalms 27:3 NIV
- Psalms 27:13 NIV
- Phillipians 1:6 NKJV
- Hebrews 10:35 NIV

2. Perseverance - Keep doing the right stuff

- 2 Thessalonians 1: 4 NIV:
- Perseverance and Faith work together
- "Sometimes it's not how strong your faith is but rather how long your faith is." - Dharius Daniels
- Hebrews 12: 1-3 NIV:

- Get rid of anger and bitterness - they will weigh you down and cause you grow weary and lose heart
- Jesus shows us the power of Focus
- Focus empowers you to persevere

3. **Courage - Stand up to the Challenge**

- Courage Definition 1 - The quality of mind or spirit that enables a person to act in accordance with one's beliefs and convictions in the face of adversity regardless of fear.
- Courage Definition 2 - Conviction to act in accordance with one's beliefs
- Daniel 3: 16-27 NIV:
- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednigo were able to successfully walk through what knocked others out because they had courage
- They came out of the adversity with a testimony