

Bible Character Study

Joshua | Joshua 1:1-9, Exodus 17:8-14; Numbers 13:25-33; 32:11-12

Trials Point Us to God's Word and Remind Us to Obey

As a believer we need to look at trials differently than the rest of the world. We need to embrace them through the lens of God's truth. As we meditate on His Word we gain wisdom to respond to trials with confidence and let God guide us through every obstacle.

Joshua 1:7-8 (NLT) *“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. ⁸ Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.”*

Psalms 119:71-73 (NLT) *“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. ⁷³ You made me; you created me. Now give me the sense to follow your commands.”*

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT) *“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.”*

Hebrews 4:12 (NLT) *“For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.”*

Psalms 119:105 (NLT) *“Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.”*

Psalms 119:143 (NLT) *“As pressure and stress bear down on me, I find joy in your commands.”*

Trials Teach Us to Walk by Faith – Not by Sight or Fear

When trials come it's easy to get blind-sighted or fearful, not seeing how everything will work out. But God wants to use trials to help us walk by faith. We can trust God! He's in control! We don't need to fret or fear because He has a perfect plan. We just need to trust and walk by faith as we let God grow us.

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV) *"For we live by faith, not by sight."*

Joshua 1:9 (NLT) *"This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*

Psalms 56:3-4 (NLT) *"But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in you. I praise God for what he has promised. I trust in God, so why should I be afraid? What can mere mortals do to me?"*

2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT) *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."*

Psalms 34:4 (NLT) *"I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears."*

Psalms 46:1-3 (NLT) *"God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea. Let the oceans roar and foam. Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge."*

Isaiah 41:10 (NLT) *"Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand."*

Hebrews 11:6 (NLT) *"And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him."*

Trials Prepare Us to Lead Effectively

We all have a responsibility to lead others in some way. People are always watching to see how we'll respond to and handle whatever life throws at us. When we choose to let trials refine us and respond God's way, we become more effective leaders.

Romans 12:8 (NLT) *"If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly."*

1 Timothy 3:2(NLT) *"So a church leader must be a man whose life is above reproach. He must be faithful to his wife. He must exercise self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation. He must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must be able to teach."*

2 Timothy 2:15 (NLT) *"Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth."*

Titus 2:7 (NLT) *"And you yourself must be an example to them by doing good works of every kind. Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching."*

Hebrews 13:7 (NLT) *"Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith."*

1 Timothy 4:12, 16 (NLT) *"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.¹⁶ Keep a close watch on how you live and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right for the sake of your own salvation and the salvation of those who hear you."*

Galatians 6:9 (NLT) *"So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up."*

Psalms 37:5 (NLT) *"Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you."*

Notes:

Reflection and Response from This Week's Lesson:

What's my take-away and how will I practice trusting God more through my custom-designed trials?
