

Triumph in Trials Deuteronomy 8:1-10 FBC Canton Sunday am August 10, 2025
Introduction: Trials are never easy, but they are always necessary. James 1:2-4

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Common Mistakes

There are two major errors we can make regarding trials:

The first mistake is the failure to anticipate trials.

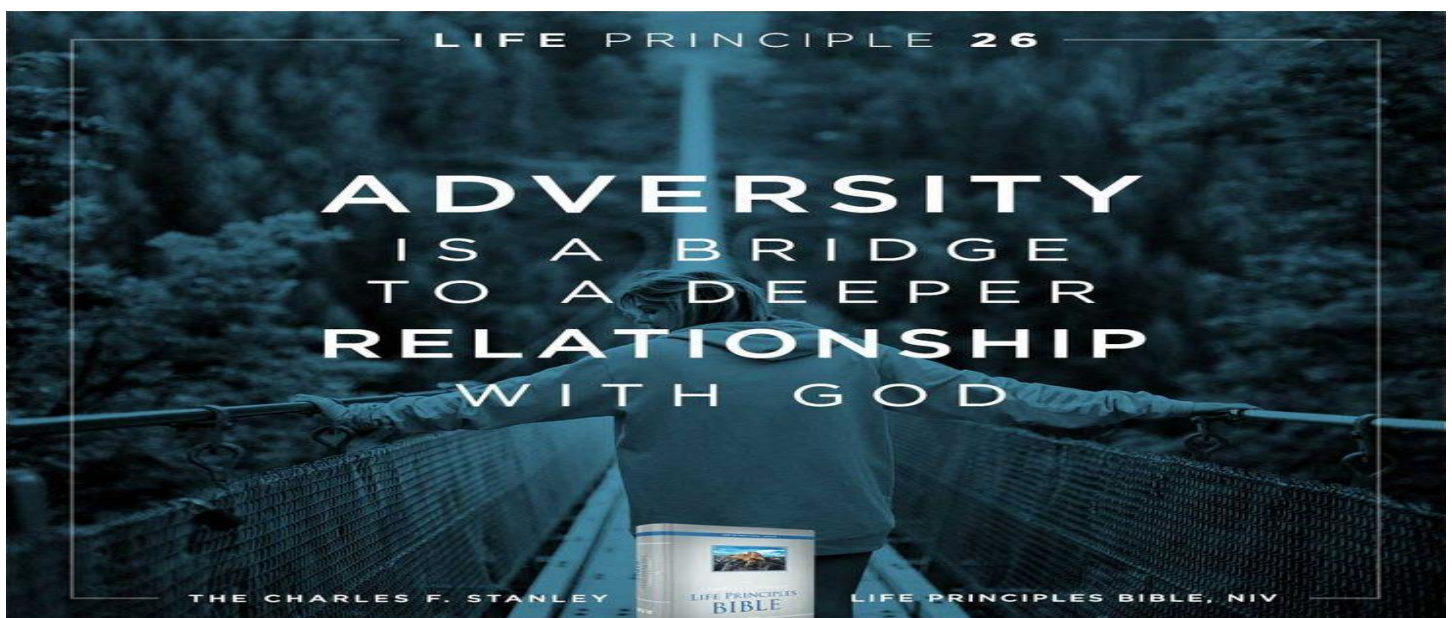
Jesus suffered trials. Jesus promised us trials.² All the apostles suffered trials. Trials are an expected part of the Christian life. And, like all storms, preparation can be critical in successfully enduring them.

A second mistake is to harbor a morbid fear of trials. Remember 1 Corinthians 10:13:

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Today you may be getting ready to send your kindergartener off, or your college student, or may be a financial or job-related trial, it might be a family issue.

Because all Believers go through trials, learning God's perspective is critical to triumph!



Today we are going to see why God tested the Israelites for 40 years.

To 'test' means to assay the quality.

A gold assayer

A Gold Assayer is an indispensable figure in the sphere of precious metals, specializing in the authentication, analysis, and valuation of gold. Their expertise lies in the precise determination of the gold's purity and composition, which is fundamental to various industries including jewelry, mining, and finance. Utilizing advanced techniques such as fire assaying, X-ray fluorescence (XRF), and inductively coupled plasma (ICP) spectrometry, gold assayers ensure the authenticity and quality of gold products, thereby fostering trust and integrity in the marketplace.

In addition to technical proficiency, a Gold Assayer must possess a deep understanding of metallurgical principles and an acute attention to detail. Their role often extends beyond mere analysis, encompassing regulatory compliance and adherence to industry standards. Their meticulous work supports the legal and commercial frameworks governing gold transactions, ensuring fair trade practices and protecting stakeholders' interests. By combining scientific acumen with ethical rigor, Gold Assayers uphold the reputation and stability of the global gold market, making their contributions vital to the economy.

Let's stand and read and pray for the Lord to give us his perspective on our trials.

I. The First Test: The Test of obedience. V.1, v. 6

a. The commandments of God are not burdensome, they are liberating. I John 5:2-4

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

b. The enemy lies to say freedom from God is fun, but then the prison doors slam shut. Luke 16

i. Teaching us too late that sin causes death.

c. We don't get to decide which commandments to obey.

i. all means all. V. 1

ii. They produce life and multiplication.

iii. This promise goes well beyond biological life or economic success, but to purpose and fulfillment.

d. Obedience to the commands provide possession of the promises. V. 1

II. Disobedience leads to the trial. V. 2-10

- a. Every trial has a reason, but we may never know it. V. 2**
- b. We can speculate as to the reason for every trial, but we must release the real reasons until Heaven. V. 2**
 - i. God will show you in hindsight why you had the trial. V. 3
- c. Only in the trial will our hearts be known to us, God already knows. V. 2**
- d. Humility is a greater blessing because pride always destroys. Ezekiel 28**
 - i. The first sin occurred in Heaven...not in Eden.
- e. Even when we disobey, God still provides manna from Heaven. V. 3, Philippians 4:19**
 - i. The provision is never upfront, it is daily; to teach daily dependence. V. 4
 - ii. God uses times of want to show our real need=Word of God. V. 3, Luke 4:4

4 But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'"

- iii. Provision is also prolonging resources, not just new manna. V. 4
- f. Trials are reserved for children, not for foreigners. V. 5**
- g. Trials produce the fear of the Lord as you see his daily word sustain. V. 6**

Conclusion: Being in awe of God is contradictory to pride. V. 7-10

Good land

Brooks of water

Fountains of springs

Flow from valleys and hills

Wheat and barley

Fig and pomegranate

Olive oil and honey

Lack nothing

Stones contain iron and copper

Bless the Lord...be in awe

Click [here](#) to view listing below for [Deu 8:1](#)

The Fifth Book of Moses, Called Deuteronomy

Commentary by ROBERT JAMIESON

CHAPTER 8

[Deu 8:1-20](#). AN EXHORTATION TO OBEDIENCE.

1. All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live--In

all the wise arrangements of our Creator duty has been made inseparably connected with happiness; and the earnest enforcement of the divine law which Moses was making to the Israelites was in order to secure their being a happy (because a moral and religious) people: a course of prosperity is often called "life" ([Gen 17:18](#) [Pro 3:2](#)).

live, and multiply--This reference to the future increase of their population proves that they were too few to occupy the land fully at first.

2, 3. thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the

wilderness--The recapitulation of all their checkered experience during that long period was designed to awaken lively impressions of the goodness of God. First, Moses showed them the object of their protracted wanderings and varied hardships. These were trials of their obedience as well as chastisements for sin. Indeed, the discovery of their infidelity, inconstancy, and their rebellions and perverseness which this varied discipline brought to light, was of eminently practical use to the Israelites themselves, as it has been to the church in all subsequent ages. Next, he enlarged on the goodness of God to them, while reduced to the last extremities of despair, in the miraculous provision which, without anxiety or labor, was made for their daily support (see on JF & B for [Ex 16:4](#)). Possessing no nutritious properties inherent in it, this contributed to their sustenance, as indeed all food does ([Mat 4:4](#)) solely through the ordinance and blessing of God. This remark is applicable to the means of spiritual as well as natural life.

4. Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years--What a striking

miracle was this! No doubt the Israelites might have brought from Egypt more clothes than they wore at their outset; they might also have obtained supplies of various articles of food and raiment in barter with the neighboring tribes for the fleeces and skins of their sheep and goats; and in furnishing them with such opportunities the care of Providence appeared. But the strong and pointed terms which Moses here uses (see also [Deu 29:5](#)) indicate a special or miraculous interposition of their loving Guardian in preserving them amid the wear and tear of their nomadic life in the desert. Thirdly, Moses expatiated on the goodness of the promised land.

7. For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land--All accounts, ancient and modern, concur in

bearing testimony to the natural beauty and fertility of Palestine, and its great capabilities if properly cultivated.

a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills--These

characteristic features are mentioned first, as they would be most striking; and all travellers describe how delightful and cheerful it is, after passing through the barren and thirsty desert, to be among running brooks and swelling hills and verdant valleys. It is observable that water is mentioned as the chief source of its ancient fertility.

8. A land of wheat, and barley--These cereal fruits were specially promised to the Israelites in the event of their faithful allegiance to the covenant of God ([Psa 81:16](#) [147:14](#)). The wheat and barley were so abundant as to yield sixty and often an hundredfold ([Gen 26:12](#) [Mat 13:8](#)).

vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates--The limestone rocks and abrupt valleys were entirely covered, as traces of them still show, with plantations of figs, vines, and olive trees. Though in a southern latitude, its mountainous formations tempered the excessive heat, and hence, figs, pomegranates, &c., were produced in Palestine equally with wheat and barley, the produce of northern regions.

honey--The word "honey" is used often in a loose, indeterminate sense, very frequently to signify a syrup of dates or of grapes, which under the name of *dibs* is much used by all classes, wherever vineyards are found, as a condiment to their food. It resembles thin molasses, but is more pleasant to the taste [ROBINSON]. This is esteemed a great delicacy in the East, and it was produced abundantly in Palestine.

9. a land whose stones are iron--The abundance of this metal in Palestine, especially among the mountains of Lebanon, those of Kesraoun, and elsewhere, is attested not only by JOSEPHUS, but by Volney, Buckingham, and other travellers.

brass--not the alloy brass, but the ore of copper. Although the mines may now be exhausted or neglected, they yielded plenty of those metals anciently ([1Ch 22:3](#) [29:2-7](#) [Isa 60:17](#)).

11-20. Beware that thou forget not the Lord--After mentioning those instances of the divine goodness, Moses founded on them an argument for their future obedience.

15. Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions--Large and venomous reptiles are found in great numbers there still, particularly in autumn. Travellers must use great caution in arranging their tents and beds at night; even during the day the legs not only of men, but of the animals they ride, are liable to be bitten.

who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint--(See on JF & B for [De 9:21](#)).

Chapter 8 Chuck Smith

And all the commandments which I command thee this day you shall observe to do, that you may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land. And thou shalt remember all the way the LORD thy God led thee for these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, to prove thee, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not ([Deu 8:1-2](#)).

Now, who was the proving for? "All the way through these forty years of wilderness God led thee to humble thee and to prove thee, to see whether or not you keep the commandments." Not to prove to God; He knew from the beginning, but to prove to themselves. Now many times God puts us through tests not to prove to Him anything about us; He already knows about us, but it is to prove to us. Sometimes we think that we are stronger than we really are. God puts us through a test to show us how weak we are and how we've got to depend upon Him. We can't depend or rely upon ourselves; we've got to rely upon the Lord.

And God will oftentimes just put us through tests to prove us, to show to us our areas of weakness that we would not have confidence in our flesh but that our confidence would be in the living God. So God's purpose was to humble them and to prove to them whether or not they would keep the commandments through the forty years of wandering in the wilderness.

And he humbled thee, and allowed thee to hunger, and he fed thee with manna, that he might know... that ye might know or make you to know; that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds ([Deu 8:3](#)).

Oh, another one that Jesus quoted to Satan, as Satan said, "Command the stone to be made bread". And Jesus quoted this particular verse out of Deuteronomy, "It is written, man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."

And thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did your feet swell, for forty years ([Deu 8:4](#)).

Can you imagine that, wearing the same clothes for forty years and your feet not swelling in all of that walking in the wilderness? Boy, that's a miracle. Through the forty years your clothes didn't get old and your feet didn't swell.

Thou shalt also consider in your heart, that, as a man chastens his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee ([Deu 8:5](#)).

Now there are some people today who are despising the chastening of the Lord. They're teaching that you don't need to be chastened of God, that all you have to do is lay claim, make your positive confessions that God doesn't chasten. Well, there are certain ones that God doesn't chasten, according to the scriptures. You read it for yourself because some of you know. I'm on the radio.

For the LORD thy God brings you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of the valleys and the hills; A land of wheat, and barley, vines, fig trees, pomegranate; a land of olive oil, a land of honey; A land wherein thou shalt eat the bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass. And when thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he has given thee ([Deu 8:6-10](#)).

You're to have a thanksgiving. Now the warning though,

Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandment, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command you this day: Lest when you have eaten and art full, and have built good houses, and you're living in them; And when your herds and your flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied. Then in your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage ([Deu 8:11-14](#));

And so the warning that your peril, the national peril will come not during the conquest, not during the development but in the times of national prosperity, there are the real dangerous periods of the history. When you become strong, when you are possessing the land, when you have eaten and are full, when you have an abundance, when you have a healthy bank account, then you are in great danger, the danger of forgetting God. I'm no longer trusting in God. You no longer have to trust in God, you think, because now you've got a bank account, you think. Who knows? You know they could-you could go to the bank tomorrow and they could be locked. What would you do?

We're not to trust in riches but to trust in the Lord. By the time of prosperity is the time of danger because the danger is that we may forget God and we then are prone to attribute our success to something other than God. Well, it's because I was so diligent, it was because I was so faithful, it's because I was so good. And we're prone to see the cause for the blessings to be something other than the true cause is because God is gracious and merciful and God is given us the power and God is brought us into this place. And we forget that it was God who did it for us and we begin to think that we did it for ourselves or it was something of us. We begin to give glory to something other than God for His wonderful goodness for us.

So beware, lest in the time of prosperity you forget God and begin to attribute the success of the nation to something other than God. And thus, you begin the evil practice of worshipping other gods; the gods of silver and gold, the materialistic gods of the world today.

For it shall be, that if you forget the Lord your God, and you walk after other gods and serve them, and worship them, [God said] I testify against you this day that you will surely perish ([Deu 8:19](#)).

God said, "I testify against you, you're gonna perish."

And the nations which the LORD destroyed before your face, as they perish, so shall ye perish; because you would not be obedient to the voice of the LORD your God ([Deu 8:20](#)).

So the solemn warnings as Moses, as a hundred and twenty-year old man is talking to the people who are about to go in now and conquer the land. "I'm leaving you fellows. My time is limited." He

knew that the time had come. And his time is up, he can't cross Jordan; God has told him that. So he's giving them this final charge, final warnings, final instructions before he lays down his mantle and Joshua takes up and leads the people across Jordan in the conquering of the land that God had promised.

So Deuteronomy becomes an important book in the history of the people. All of the warnings are here. As I said, "You can never say that God didn't warn you". God is faithful. We, a lot of times, ignore the warnings but God is faithful to warn us and you have never fallen into any trap of what God warned you the trap was there. You've never stumbled except God warned you the stumbling stone was there. God is faithful to warn us. He warned them, he laid it out even as he warns us.

So, next week we'll continue chapter nine through sixteen of the book of Deuteronomy. Shall we stand.

Great is thy faithfulness, Oh God my Father. Faithful to His word, faithful to His people, faithful to His prophets and if you will walk in His path of righteousness, you will know the blessings of the Lord. For they will surround thee and encompass thee like the air that you breathe. Oh, that men would walk with God and follow after him and commit their lives fully, totally, to obey His will; to be pleasing unto Him. May that be our commitment this week.

Oh God, that my life might be pleasing unto Thee in all that I do and all that I say. "Let the words of my mouth, the meditations of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight Oh Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer" ([Psalms 19:14](#)). When I lie down and when I get up and when I sit and when I am writing or wherever, may there be that conscienceness of God and the talking of God and of His ways and of His goodness and of His righteousness, that we might live in the continual presence, conscienceness of the presence of God, and thus, be pleasing unto Him.

God be with you, bless and keep you in His loving grace through Jesus Christ.

Matthew Henry :: Commentary on Deuteronomy 8

References for Deu 8:1 — [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#)

Chapter 8

Moses had charged parents in teaching their children to whet the word of God upon them ([ch. 6:7](#)) by frequent repetition of the same things over and over again; and here he himself takes the same method of instructing the Israelites as his children, frequently inculcating the same precepts and cautions, with the same motives or

arguments to enforce them, that what they heard so often might abide with them. In this chapter Moses gives them,

- I. General exhortations to obedience ([v. 1](#), [6](#)).
- II. A review of the great things God had done for them in the wilderness, as a good argument for obedience ([v. 2-5](#), [15](#), [16](#)).
- III. A prospect of the good land into which God would now bring them ([v. 7-9](#)).
- IV. A necessary caution against the temptations of a prosperous condition ([v. 10-14](#), and [17, 18](#)).
- V. A fair warning of the fatal consequences of apostasy from God ([v. 19, 20](#)).

David Guzik :: Study Guide for Deuteronomy 8

Click [here](#) to view listing below for [Deu 8:1](#)

A WARNING AGAINST PRIDE

A. God's work of building humility in Israel during the wilderness wanderings.

1. ([Deuteronomy 8:1-2](#)) God humbled and tested Israel.

Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers. And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you *and* test you, to know what *was* in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

- Every command... you must be careful to observe:** God called Israel to a complete obedience. This obedience was to be based on remembering what the LORD had done among them in the wilderness.
- To humble you:** God *humbled* Israel. He brought them to a place where all they could do was depend on Him. They had nothing else, and no one else to count on.

i. Some think that God's work of humbling is accomplished just by bringing us into a humble place. But it is where our heart is while we are in the humble place that God is really concerned about. We may be in a humble place but longing for something different. We may believe that God owes something different to us, and we will soon get it. Instead, God wants us to be content in the humble place He puts us.

- And test you:** God *tested* Israel. It was not because He didn't know their hearts, but because *they* didn't know their hearts. We have to constantly be corrected of our over-estimation of ourselves.

2. ([Deuteronomy 8:3-5](#)) God's education of Israel in the wilderness.

So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but

man lives by every **word** that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD. Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, **so** the LORD your God chastens you.

- a. **So He humbled you**: All of God's education begins here. Some never even make it past this first essential step. If we are not humble and not teachable, there is then no point to the rest of any of God's education.
- b. **Allowed you to hunger, and fed you manna**: The next grade of God's education is **total dependence** on the LORD. Israel had to rely on God beyond their own knowledge (**which you did not know**), and beyond their own ability.
- c. **That He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone**: In the negative, this was the lesson God wanted them to learn. In the positive, they had to learn that **man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD**. Sadly, many still live by **bread alone**, living only for material things, for what can be bought or sold or earned or possessed materially.

- i. This statement is a command; but it is also a simple statement of fact: **man shall not live by bread alone**. You may exist by material things alone, but you will not **live**. Anyone thinking they live for bread alone is actually one of the living dead.
- ii. Some don't **live** by God's word because they **fight** with God's word: "The worst implement with which you can knock a man down, is the Bible; it is intended for us to live upon, — not to be the weapon of our controversies, but our daily food, upon which we rejoice to live." (Spurgeon)
- iii. We live by every **word** that proceeds from the mouth of God, not by every feeling we experience. "You have never received spiritual life by your own feelings. It was when you believed God's Word that you lived; and you will never get an increase of spiritual life, and grow in grace, by your own feelings or your own doings. It must still be by your believing the promises and feeding on the Word." (Spurgeon)
- iv. It is the word of God that is our food and substance, and not our own dreams or imaginations. If you are more excited about some dream or vision than you are about God's word, then something is wrong. *The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat?" says the LORD.* ([Jeremiah 23:28](#))
- v. We live by **every** word: "In places where they cut diamonds, they sweep up the dust, because the very dust of diamonds is valuable; and in the Word of God, all the truth is so precious that the very tiniest truth, if there be such a thing, is still diamond dust, and is unspeakably precious." (Spurgeon)
- vi. Find life in every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD! "Oh, keep to the Word, my brothers! Keep to it as God's Word, and as coming out of his mouth. Suck it down into your soul; you cannot have too much of it. Feed on it day and night, for thus will God make you to live the life that is life indeed." (Spurgeon)

3. ([Deuteronomy 8:6-10](#)) Blessings in the land for Israel.

Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him. For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper. When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.

a. **Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God:** If Israel would put their focus on every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD, then the LORD would take care of all the material things — and bring them into a materially abundant land.

i. God is not against material things — except when they come between Him and us. God wanted to materially bless a spiritually obedient Israel.

ii. “The reference to iron and copper in the hills is remarkably exact. Ancient copper mines and smelters have been discovered in recent years in the Arabah below the Dead Sea, and geological survey has demonstrated the presence of ores of copper and iron in the nearby hills.” (Thompson)

b. **Then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you:** This is the simple principle of Matthew 6:33 — But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

PERSONAL Mar 01, 2000 | By [Chuck Missler](#)

Weathering the Storm

Clouds Ahead?

Author

[Chuck Missler](#)

Are you heading into a threatening storm? Is the course you're on heading for rocks and shoals? As we travel, we are becoming aware that significant portions of our subscribers are going through serious trials and "dark times."

As most of our regular readers know, Nan and I have been blessed with a life-changing valley. We were "sitting on top of the world": the fruits of a 30-year career in high-technology ventures had left us with substantial assets and a life of adventure and excitement.

However, we allowed ourselves to get overextended, and the Lord used a series of setbacks to redirect our entire lives to where He wanted us to be.

The Flight of the Phoenix

Our venture development firm, The Phoenix Group International, specializing in acquiring and repairing troubled technology assets, was named after the bird of the fable which rose from its ashes. (We should have done more homework: the Phoenix legend is about a mythical bird that *burned* every 500 years.)

Through a bizarre series of events, we succeeded in signing an \$8 billion joint venture with the Soviet Union to provide personal computers to their 143,000 schools. (We later discovered that 16 companies from 7 countries had been competing for this. If I had known that earlier, we wouldn't have had the guts to undertake a proposal!)

As the USSR began to unravel, our venture began to run into difficulties of several kinds. Our real mistake was the result of our personal arrogance: I attempted to prop up the venture, and the corporation, personally.

(My Jewish friends have explained to me what a *guarantor* is: he's "a schmuck with a pen.")¹

We went down in flames: the venture, the corporation, and our own situation personally. We ultimately went through personal bankruptcy. The grinding mill of these events not only crushed our financial assets, it crushed our very identities.

In a short summary article, there isn't the opportunity to recount the many priceless lessons of those dark times. But it is important to note that Romans 8:28 was still operative:

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Probably the three most important words are first three: "*And we know...*" It is the confidence in this commitment that sees you through the deepest of valleys.

Common Mistakes

There are two major errors we can make regarding trials: The first mistake is the failure to anticipate trials. Jesus suffered trials. Jesus promised us trials.² All the apostles suffered trials. Trials are an expected part of the Christian life. And, like all storms, preparation can be critical in successfully enduring them.

A second mistake is to harbor a morbid fear of trials. Remember 1 Corinthians 10:13:

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Why Do Christians Have Trials?

The trials in our lives present many opportunities: Here are just a few:³

1. To glorify God (Daniel 3:16-18, 24-25);
2. Discipline for known sin (Hebrews 12:5-11; James 4:17; Romans 14:23; 1 John 1:9);
3. To prevent us from falling into sin (1 Peter 4:1-2);

4. To keep us from pride. Paul was kept from pride by his "thorn in the flesh" (2 Corinthians 12:7-10);⁴
5. To build faith (1 Peter 1:6-7);⁵
6. To cause growth (Romans 5:3-5);⁶
7. To teach obedience and discipline (Acts 9:15-16; Philippians 4:11-13);
8. To equip us to comfort others (2 Corinthians 1:3-4);
9. To prove the reality of Christ in us (2 Corinthians 4:7-11);
10. For testimony to the angels (Job 1:8; Ephesians 3:8-11; 1 Peter 1:12).

As we encounter serious trials, we need to remember Job. The secret to the Book of Job is to maintain the divine viewpoint. When we read this earliest of books, realize that, as a reader, we have the advantage of the conversation between God and Satan in Chapter 1. (Job didn't.)

Paul certainly knew sufferings.⁷ And he regarded them as opportunities. This is why James could sincerely admonish us to "count it all joy."⁸ We need to remember that we are in a "boot camp" for heaven:

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Romans 8:17

(You and I cannot begin to imagine what this really means. Compare that to your wildest dreams on this earth...!)

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

1 Cor 2:9

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Romans 8:18

And, as Paul develops in the eighth chapter of his letter to the believers in Rome, he climaxes with the greatest tour d'force in the Scriptures: Romans 8:31-39. Read it and apply it.

If you are going through a major trial, drop us a note so that we can pray for you. And recognize that it may be the prelude to the greatest adventure of all!

Notes:

1. It was my pride that opened the door to my personal disaster: Proverbs 6:1-5; 11:15; 17:18. I got what I deserved.
2. John 16:33.
3. Hal Lindsey, *Combat Faith*, Bantam Books, New York, 1986.
4. Many believe his "thorn" was an eye problem (Galatians 4:15); that may be why he signed with such a large signature (Galatians 6:11).
5. See also, Chapter 5, *Faith in the Night Seasons*.
6. See also, Chapters 3 and 4, *Faith in the Night Seasons*.
7. 2 Corinthians 4:7-11, 16-18; 2 Corinthians 11:23-28; Hebrews 11:32-40.
8. James 1:2-4.