

Truly Under Attack

Be careful not to let your trials mislead you - 1 Peter 4:12-16 - 12 Dear friends, **do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering**, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15 If you suffer, **it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler**. 16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

MANY TIMES SUFFERINGS & TRIALS ARE FOR OUR BENEFIT AND WELL-BEING

Joy in trials - James 1:2-4 - 2 **Consider it pure joy**, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the **testing of your faith develops perseverance**. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Rejoice in suffering - Rom 5:1-5 - Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also **rejoice in our sufferings**, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Endure Hardship - Heb 12:7-13 - 7 **Endure hardship as discipline**; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? 8 If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. 9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! 10 Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. 11 **No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful**. Later on, however, **it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it**. 12 Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. 13 "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

LET'S REALLY UNDERSTAND HOW SATAN ATTACKS

God has revealed Satan's purpose - John 10:10 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Temptation

Weakness - Matt 4:2-3 - 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

Desires - Matt 4:8-9 - 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

Gen 3:6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

- Loneliness
- Not enough money
- Dreams
- Discomfort
- Undesirable situation
- Your relationships

Accusation

Matt 4:3 - 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

Matt 4:6 - 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

Gen 3-1 - Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

Gen 3-5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

- Self-doubt
- Self confidence
- Questioning God's love for you
- Playing with your ignorance (faith, healing...)
- Your relationships

Indoctrination

Matt 4:6 - 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" (Ps 91:11-12)

Gen 3:4 -4 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.

- Lack of consistent Bible study
- Lack of Understanding
- Mixing the Bible with other things (philosophies, emotions, desires...)

The main source of demonic attacks is the world

1 John 2:15-16 - 15 **Do not love the world or anything in the world.** If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For **everything in the world** — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world.

James 4:4 - 4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

IN ORDER TO WITHSTAND SATAN'S ATTACKS DO THE FOLLOWING

We will need wisdom (which is freely offered) to stay protected - James 3:13-16 - 13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 **But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.** 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

Spiritually prepare - James 4:7-10 - 7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

- Submit yourselves, then, to God
- Resist the devil
- Come near to God
- Wash your hands (stop sinning)
- Purify your hearts (God's way ONLY!!!)
- Grieve, mourn and wail (Get the right perspective of the World)
- Humble yourselves

It's up to us, through the power Christ has given us, to live our lives responsibly - to Heb 12:1-3 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

- throw off everything that hinders
- throw off the sin that so easily entangles
- run with perseverance the race marked out for us
- Let us fix our eyes on Jesus

We have all the protection we need from Satan's attacks, we just have to correctly utilize them - 1 Peter 5:8-11 - 8 **Be self-controlled and alert.** Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 **Resist him, standing firm in the faith,** because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

We are divinely protected as we stay in his protection - 1 John 5:18 - 18 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. ESV

**** (In all cases under attack Jesus kept stating... IT IS Written)**

***** (Also understand that unless we study the Word we could be doing wrong and not know it. Many ask what would have been the problem with Jesus changing the stone to bread but he seen in scripture that would be wrong.)**

As stated by Paul if we totally depend on God he will deliver us - 2 Tim 4:14-18 - 14 Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. 15 You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message. 16 At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. 17 But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. 18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.