

To what extent can this evil world bring trials to our life and challenges to our faith?

1 Peter 4:12-13, "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy."

As such:

Acts 14:22, "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God."

Why?

2 Corinthians 4:10-11, "That the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh."

The reason Jesus said:

Matthew 16:24-26, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Therefore:

James 1:2-4, "Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

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In trusting and abiding in Christ, what should our attitude be when facing challenges and trials?

Deuteronomy 31:6, "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He *is* the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

Why?

Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go."

As such:

1 Timothy 6:12, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."

Philippians 4:6-7, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

What is the path to follow to increase our faith?

Romans 10:17, "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ."

Psalms 119:105, "Your word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Therefore:

Isaiah 41:10, "Fear not, for I *am* with you; be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

Do I trust God even through trials?

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Why should we walk by faith and trust God at His Word, no matter the circumstances of life?

Hebrews 11:6, "Without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

Romans 1:17, "For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

As such:

Romans 8:18, "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."

Psalms 23:4, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me."

Romans 8:28, "We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose."

What's more?

Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Why?

1 John 4:4, "Because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

Therefore:

Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 5:10, "Blessed *are* those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

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How must we stand firm on our faith in Christ, so as to abide and live by the Word of God?

Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

Colossians 3:16, "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another."

Colossians 3:23, "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men."

As such:

Romans 12:2, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

What's more?

Romans 12:12, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."

Psalms 31:24, "Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the LORD."

Why?

Hebrews 13:6, "The LORD is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?"

Therefore:

1 Peter 5:8-9, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."

1 Corinthians 16:13, "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong."

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What is God's ultimate purpose to allow trials and challenges in our life?

1 Peter 1:7, "That the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

As such:

2 Corinthians 12:9, "He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

Why?

1 Samuel 12:22, "For the LORD will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you His people."

Romans 10:11, "For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

Romans 5:3-4, "Knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope."

What's more?

Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ."

Therefore:

1 Corinthians 15:58, "Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

Philippians 1:27, "Let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ."

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How is the power of God enabled in a born again believer in Christ?

1 John 5:4, "Whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world, our faith."

Why?

2 Timothy 1:7, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

Romans 8:38-39, "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

As such:

Psalms 46:1-2, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear."

Isaiah 40:31, "Those who wait on the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

The reason Jesus said:

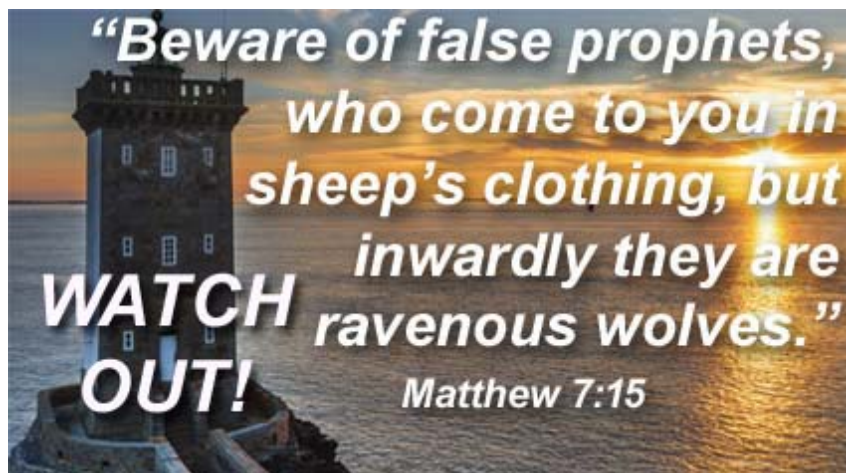
John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Mark 9:23, "If you can believe, all things *are* possible to him who believes."

Therefore:

Ephesians 6:10, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power."

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Are there warnings about being watchful for deceivers and false prophets?

1 John 4:1, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.."

Colossians 2:8, "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

Why?

Matthew 24:24, "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect."

As such:

1 Timothy 6:3, 5, "If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ," "From such withdraw yourself."

What's more?

Romans 16:18, "Those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple."

Therefore:

Matthew 24:4-5, "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many."

Galatians 5:1, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."

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