

PERSEVERE UNDER TRIALS

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*“Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial  
because, having stood the test,  
that person will receive the crown of life  
that the Lord has promised to those who love him.  
James 1:12*

It can be encouraging to know that God gives us challenges, trials and persecutions as part of our walk as Christians — to prepare us for Eternal Life with Him. Knowing this, how might it effect the way that you handle difficulties? How might it effect the way that you intercede and stand in the gap for others and our country?

***Dear Heavenly Father, I Pray....***

**That You will help me to walk gracefully and graciously through the trials that You set before me; for your purposes for the betterment of my soul, and to prepare me for eternal life with You. Help me to embrace your purposes and your will, to appreciate the fruits of my trials. Thank you Heavenly Father Abba, for your love and mercy which are embedded in my trials.**

## **Trials Are For Purification**

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, it's hard to remember that You bring us trials in order to purify us; to purify us of flaws, weaknesses in our faith, areas of immaturity, fears and insecurities; to purify our ego for greater humility and holiness.
- ◆ Hebrews 12:5-8 reminds me: *“And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: ‘My son, do not despise the chastening*

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of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.' If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons."

- ◆ Help me Lord God, to endure chastening and embrace the purification of my character and my soul. For Hebrews 2:11 affirms: *"For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren."*
- ◆ For if Ephesians 2:10 is true: *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them"*; then this means You Lord God, are continually bringing me into greater realization and expression of being Your workmanship; removing what doesn't belong; strengthening me to be all that You have created me to be in You.

We Are Not Alone In Our Trials

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, Your Word tells me that trials are a part of the Christian walk, that You chasten those You love, that we are not alone in our trials.
- ◆ 1 Peter 4:12 comforts me: *"Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you."* This tells me to actually **expect** trials!
- ◆ Psalm 41:9 tells me that I am not alone in betrayals; especially betrayals from people who were trusted or brought in close: *"Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me."* So if King David can go through betrayals and come out a better man for them, so can I be better for them! Thank you Jesus!

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- ◆ Psalm 41:11-12 continues: *“I know that you are pleased with me, for my enemy does not triumph over me. Because of my integrity you uphold me and set me in your presence forever.”* I pray Lord God, that my trials strengthen my integrity, my moral compass and my spiritual core. Help me Lord Jesus, to strengthen my integrity, and grow in spiritual maturity, depth and strength.

### I Embrace the Fruits of Trials!

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, I realize that I have gotten caught up in the drama of the trials, pressing for justice; when my eyes should be on the prize of the true fruits of trials — perseverance and deeper faith, spiritual maturity and a purified character.
- ◆ Lord God Abba, I embrace the fruit of greater humility that 2 Corinthians 12:7-9 reveals: *“Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’”* So Lord God, I embrace your Grace and my weakness!
- ◆ Heavenly Father Abba, I embrace the fruit of deeper, more mature faith, as 1 Peter 1:6-7 exhorts: *“In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”*
- ◆ Dear Abba, I thank you for the fruits of deeper faith, which includes eternal salvation; as 1 Peter 1:8-9 shares: *“Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for*

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you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

- ◆ For James 1:2-8 counsels me to embrace perseverance which is the antidote to the adversary’s agenda to create in me discouragement and demoralization. *I consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever I face trials of many kinds, because I know that the testing of my faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that I may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*
- ◆ Lord God, I ask for and embrace the fruits of wisdom and greater discernment; as James 1:5-8 exhorts: *“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.”*
- ◆ Help me Lord God to never ever be double-minded. It is the foundation of terrible character flaws. Bring peace, wholeness and stability to my mind; impeccable clarity in You, your will, and your ways and purposes for my life. In Jesus’ name I pray!

Help Me In My Trials!

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, I repent for forgetting to ask for your help in the midst of my trials; believing I have to figure it all out myself, that I have to tough it out myself. I commit to *trust in YOU Lord God with all my heart and lean not on my own understanding; in all my ways submit to You, and You will make my paths straight*, according to Proverbs 3:5-6.
- ◆ For Hebrews 4:15-16 reminds me: *“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the*

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*throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*

### **To Know What Is In My Heart**

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, surely the most important reason You give me tests and trials, loosing the adversary into my life, is to know — truly know, what is in my heart. What is in my heart for YOU.
- ◆ As Deuteronomy 8:2-3 says: *“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. 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.”*
- ◆ Father God, I pray that You see that what is in my heart throughout and after the trials you’ve sent me, is a true and deeper love for YOU. I do not blame You nor hold anger towards You for my trials. I know and experience your mercy on me and my life. You may allow me to go right to the precipice, but You never allow me to go over the edge. You bring me supports, respite and ultimately, victories.
- ◆ Thank you Abba for demonstrating TRUE LOVE by having me go through difficulties for my own good, for my spiritual growth and maturation, to also prepare me for the next assignments that You have for me. Assignments that I could not have fulfilled had You not delivered difficult trials to me first.
- ◆ Indeed 1 Peter 1:7-9 reminds me that *These trials are only to test my faith, to see whether or not it is strong and pure. It is being tested as fire tests gold and purifies it—and my faith is far more precious to God than mere gold; so if my faith remains strong after being tried in the test tube*

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of fiery trials, it will bring me much praise and glory and honor on the day of his return. I love Jesus Christ Yeshua even though I have never seen him; though not seeing him, I trust him; and even now I am happy with the inexpressible joy that comes from heaven itself. And my further reward for trusting him will be the salvation of my soul.

- ◆ Now THAT is a worthwhile price to pay for my trials! Thank you Lord God ABBA!

Trials Bring Our Crown

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, it's hard in the midst of earthly trials and their accompanying stresses to remember the ultimate prize and purpose of these trials: to receive the Crown of Life. Thank you my Abba, for making it possible for such an imperfect one as me to be worthy of such an unimaginable gift.
- ◆ For James 1:12 declares: *"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. I embrace perseverance!*
- ◆ Revelation 3:11 encourages me: *"Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown."* Lord Jesus Yeshua, please let no one take my crown! Let no weapon formed against me prosper.
- ◆ Heavenly Father Abba, You told me the end from the beginning in Isaiah 54:17, that *no weapon forged against me will prevail, and I shall refute every tongue that accuses me. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from YOU, Lord God.*
- ◆ You warned me in Matthew 10:22: *"And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved."*
- ◆ You confirmed again in Matthew 24:13: *"But he who endures to the end shall be saved."*

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- ◆ Lord Jesus Christ, I SHALL endure unto the end! I commit to continually yielding to the Spirit of God as the agency for the Will of God; to be purified, sanctified and prepared for Eternal Life with You and God our Father. Amen.

### SEALING PRAYER

*“O LORD,*

*You have searched me and known me.  
You know my sitting down and my rising up;  
You understand my thought afar off.  
You comprehend my path and my lying down,  
And are acquainted with all my ways.  
For there is not a word on my tongue,  
But behold, O LORD,  
You know it altogether.  
You have hedged me behind and before,  
And laid Your hand upon me.”*

*“For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.*

*I praise You  
because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well.”*

*“Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

Psalm 139:1-5; 13-14; 23-24