

Biblical Teachings on Trials and Suffering

(Outline and most notes prepared and taught by Pastor Tim Pasma of LaRue Baptist Church in LaRue, Ohio. Many additional notes and Scriptures added!)

Unbiblical Perspectives on the Origin of Trials & Suffering:

- A. It's always my fault.
- B. It's always other people's fault.
- C. It's no one's fault; it is what it is.
- D. God is NOT in it at all.

"God wants the righteous to live peaceful, happy lives, but sometimes even He can't bring that about. It is too difficult even for God to keep cruelty and chaos from claiming their innocent victims." (When Bad Things Happen to Good People p. 43).

"Can you accept the idea that some things happen for no reason, that there is randomness in the universe?" Kushner, p. 43.

Biblical Perspectives On The Origin of Trials & Suffering:

- A. Proximately, it is the result of Adam's sin.

Genesis 1:27,31

27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 31 God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. (God created Adam/Eve with the ability and total freedom to make their own decisions and choices; yet being fully accountable to God for the decisions and choices they made. Adam/Eve were without sin at creation, made Holy and righteous in God's image. "it was very good" - No sin = no sufferings of any kind; only pure joy and fellowship face to face with God in the garden with great delight and pleasure in caring for the garden to the Glory of God.)

Genesis 2:15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. 16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die." 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

(Adam/Eve could eat from multitudes of trees in the garden with delicious perfect fruit. They couldn't eat from ONLY ONE tree as a TEST (Trial) of their love, trust and obedience to

God. God demanded perfect obedience and trust since it is impossible for God to lie or do unrighteousness and therefore God is worthy of such love, trust and obedience. Remember Jesus' words: John 14:15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." 21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him." 24 "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me."

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from ANY tree of the garden (Satan's subtle lies to create doubt and unbelief in what God said; therefore, doubting God Himself)'" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.' " 4 The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die (Satan's subtle lies to not believe God or His Words)! 5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil (Satan's subtle lies to fulfill HUMAN PRIDE - the desire to become our own GOD - not needing GOD)." 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food (Lust of the flesh), and that it was a delight to the eyes (Lust of the eyes), and that the tree was desirable to make {one} wise (Boastful pride of life), she took from its fruit and ate (Gave in to the lusts of her flesh as well as to the lies of Satan - sinned); and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings (Guilt and shame from disobeying GOD). 8 They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden (Fear, Guilt and

Shame only the spotless blood of Christ can remove). 9 Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself." 11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" 12 The man said, "The woman whom You gave {to be} with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate." 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." (Human nature is of such a kind that we most always blame others and not take responsibility for our own sinful actions. When we sin, we are guilty before God regardless of what others have done.)

[Because GOD IS HOLY and JUST, He must punish sin. Because of ONE act of disobedience, God cursed Satan, man & all creation. This is how Holy and Righteous God IS – HE hates sin and unrighteousness. Suffering came into this world because of MAN'S willful and knowledgeable disobedience to GOD. This disobedience came as a result of Adam/Eve's lack of trust and their unbelief in their Holy Creator God Who cannot lie. This is sin! This unbelief and lack of trust in our worthy God brought the righteous judgment of our Holy God against sin. Yet, Adam/Eve believed the Father of lies who knows nothing but deceit and destruction of all that is righteous and good and trusted (believed) Satan's word over God's Word. This brought the curse of sin which started all sufferings in this world of every type. The first sin of Adam/Eve started suffering in our world but our own multitudinous sins increased and compounded our sufferings even more. Man sinned, NOT GOD!!! Man, not God, is responsible for all sufferings starting and continuing!!!] What follows is the historical record of the curses upon Satan, Man and all Creation by our Holy and Just God:

Genesis 3:14 The LORD God said to the serpent (Satan, Revelation 12:9a), "Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the

days of your life; 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel." 16 To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you." 17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life. 18 "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; 19 By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return."

In the light of these above Scriptural Truth's, listen to Deuteronomy 30:11-20 as well as Proverbs 8:32-36:

Deuteronomy 30:11 "For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach. 12 It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?' 13 Nor is it beyond * the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross the sea for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?' 14 But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may observe it. 15 See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity; 16 in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where * you are entering to possess it. 17 But if your heart turns away and you will not obey, but are drawn away and worship other gods and serve them, 18 I declare to you today that you shall surely perish. You will not prolong your days in the land where * you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess it. 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So

choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, 20 by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

Proverbs 8 - Christ is the Word of God made flesh and the Wisdom of God, speaking:

Proverbs 8:32 "Now therefore, O sons, listen to me, For blessed are they who keep my ways. 33 Heed instruction and be wise, And do not neglect it. 34 Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at my doorposts. 35 For he who finds me finds life And obtains favor from the LORD. 36 But he who sins against me injures himself; All those who hate me love death."

B. God is the ultimate cause of trials and suffering.

1. But He is never the author of sin.

James 1:12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God "; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. 15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. 16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. 17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. 18 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

Acts 2:22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know - 23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and fore-

knowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

2. God is Sovereign, so everything is planned by Him and goes according to His decree:

Isaiah 46:9 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure' 11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.

Ephesians 1:11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, ...

3. This includes both calamity and blessing:

Job 1:20 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped. 21 He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD." 22 Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame * God.

Job 2:9 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!" 10 But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Ecclesiastes 7:14 In the day of prosperity be happy, But in the day of adversity consider - God has made the one as well as the other So that man will not discover anything that will be after him.

Lamentations 3:37 Who is there who speaks and it comes to pass, Unless the Lord has commanded it? 38 Is it not from the mouth of the Most High That both good and ill go forth?

Isaiah 45:7 The One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the LORD who does all these.

4. So the events of life in this world are not the random happenings of an absurd, random, chaotic universe but the working out of God's sovereign decrees.

Biblical Purposes In Trials & Sufferings:

A. Suffering is always for God's glory:

Job Chapters 1 & 2:

Job 1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil. 2 Seven sons and three daughters were born to him. 3 His possessions also were 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys, and very many servants; and that man was the greatest of all the men of the east. 4 His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. 5 When the days of feasting had completed their cycle, Job would send and consecrate them, rising up early in the morning and offering burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, "Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually. 6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them [Before Christ's birth into this world as a man; Before His life, death, burial, resurrection and ascension to heaven where He is now seated at the right hand of God the Father on God's throne, Satan came "before the Lord" where he had access to God in heaven and accused the believers before God. After Christ's ascension into heaven, Satan was forever kicked out of heaven to never have access to God in heaven to accuse the saints before God (Revelation 12:7-10). SINCE Christ's ascension into heaven, Christ and the Holy Spirit are FOREVER praying and interceding for Each and Every One of His children He has birthed into His Kingdom through the New

Birth (Romans 8:26-27, 33-34)]. 7 The LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it." 8 The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil." 9 Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing?" 10 "Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land." 11 "But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face." 12 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him (Satan can do ONLY what God allows him to do and nothing more!!! Satan is God's puppet God uses to accomplish ALL His Will and Purposes!!!)." So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.

Satan is Allowed (by GOD Alone) to Test Job

13 Now on the day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, 14 a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, 15 and the Sabeans attacked and took them. They also slew the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." 16 While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you." 17 While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three bands and made a raid on the camels and took them and slew the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." 18 While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, 19 and behold, a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people and they died, and I alone have escaped to tell

you." 20 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped. 21 He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD." 22 Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.

Job 2:1 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD. 2 The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it." 3 The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause." 4 Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. 5 "However, put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse You to Your face." 6 So the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life (Satan can do nothing except what God allows him to do. Satan is nothing but a puppet used by God to accomplish ALL of God's Sovereign Will and Purposes)." 7 Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. 8 And he took a potsherd to scrape himself while he was sitting among the ashes. 9 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!" 10 But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity (Job knew God and therefore understood that GOD CANNOT ERR AND DOES ALL THINGS RIGHT – GOD CANNOT SIN!!! Though he did not understand why God was allowing these evils to plague him, he still trusted GOD!!! Job knew that GOD CAN ALWAYS BE TRUSTED IN ALL HIS DEALINGS WITH HIS CHILDREN; THEREFORE, JOB KEPT THE FAITH AND HIS INTEGRITY!!!)" In all this Job did not sin with his lips. 11 Now

when Job's three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, they came each one from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite; and they made an appointment together to come to sympathize with him and comfort him. 12 When they lifted up their eyes at a distance and did not recognize him, they raised their voices and wept. And each of them tore his robe and they threw dust over their heads toward the sky. 13 Then they sat down on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights with no one speaking a word to him, for they saw that his pain was very great.

Job 42:1 Then Job answered the LORD and said, 2 "I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted. 3 Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge? Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know." 4 Hear, now, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You instruct me. 5 I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You; 6 Therefore I retract, And I repent in dust and ashes.

10 The LORD restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends, and the LORD increased all that Job had twofold. (Psalms 148!!!)

The Gospel of John:

Healing the Man Born Blind

John 9:1 As He (Jesus) passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "**It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.**"

I Corinthians 1:26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; 27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are

strong, 28 and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, 29 so that no man may boast before God. 30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, 31 so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

I Corinthians 15:24 ... then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death. 27 For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him. 28 When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.

Romans 11:36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

B. Suffering is always for our eternal good:

Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

God may choose to set aside our temporary happiness to work a more grand plan for our eternal good and His glory.

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| God Limits, Orders and Controls all things for His Glory and our Good |
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1. See the Apostle Paul in II Corinthians 12:7-10:

II Corinthians 12:7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a

messenger of Satan to torment me-to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. 9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

2. See Joseph in Genesis 50:20
Genesis 50:20 "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive."
3. See Dr Jay Adam's book "How to Handle Trouble":
 - a. Recognize God is in the problem.
 - b. Remember God is up to something.
 - c. Believe that God is up to something good.
 - d. Discover where and how God is at work.
 - e. Get involved in what He is doing.
 - f. Expect good effects.

Biblical Responses of God's Children in Trials & Suffering

- A. You must be responsible no matter how you feel – to magnify Christ since we will give an account:

I Peter esp. 4:19 Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

Philippians 1:20 according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

II Corinthians 5:9 Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Psalm 56:3 When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You.
4 In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can mere man do to me?

Psalm 119:71 It is good for me that I was afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.

Psalm 119:75 I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are righteous, And that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.

"For many years in my own pilgrimage of seeking to come to a place of trusting God at all times – I am still far from the end of the journey – I was a prisoner to my feelings. I mistakenly thought I could not trust God unless I felt like trusting Him (which I almost never did in times of adversity). Now I am learning that trusting God is first of all a matter of the will and is not dependent on my feelings. I choose to trust God and my feelings eventually follow." ("Trusting God Even When Life Hurts", pp. 194-195)

B. Ask yourself:

1. Could God have stopped this?
2. Did He?
3. If not, why not?

C. Don't pray "just let me hang in there", or "Just get me through", but ask God to help you grow in the midst of the difficulty to be more like Jesus (Romans 8:28-29; James 1:24; Romans 5:3-5 – Golden chain).

An African Christian said this about American Christians: "You Americans always pray for God to remove the trial; we pray for God to strengthen our backs to bear it for His glory."

Romans 5:3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

D. Accept lament as part of suffering (Psalm 13; Habakkuk 1:4; 3:12-19)

– Lament Psalms: 22, 31, 39, 41, 42, 43, 88, 102, 141.

1. Lament is a holy complaint – it is complaining to God without blaming or blaspheming God.

2. Remember that it is alright for Christians to lament – accept proper lamentation and help others to lament appropriately.

Biblical Reasons Why God Brings Trials & Suffering

A. To expose our sin:

I Corinthians 11:30 For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.

II Kings 5:15 When he returned to the man of God with all his company, and came and stood before him, he said, "Behold now, I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel; so please take a present from your servant now." 16 But he said, "As the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will take nothing." And he urged him to take it, but he refused. 17 Naaman said, "If not, please let your servant at least be given two mules' load of earth; for your servant will no longer offer burnt offering nor will he sacrifice to other gods, but to the LORD. 18 In this matter may the LORD pardon your servant: when my master goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leans on my hand and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, when I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon your servant in this matter." 19 He said to him, "Go in peace." So he departed from him some distance. 20 But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, thought, "Behold, my master has spared this Naaman the Aramean, by not receiving from his hands what he brought. As the LORD lives, I will run after him and take something from him." 21 So Gehazi pursued Naaman. When Naaman saw one running after him, he came down from the chariot to meet him and said, "Is all well?" 22 He said, "All is well. My master has sent me, saying, 'Behold, just now two young men of the sons of the prophets have come to me from the hill country of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two changes of clothes.'" 23 Naaman said, "Be pleased to take two talents." And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags with two changes of clothes and gave them to two of his servants; and they carried them before him. 24 When he came to the hill, he took them from their hand and

deposited them in the house, and he sent the men away, and they departed. 25 But he went in and stood before his master. And Elisha said to him, "Where have you been, Gehazi?" And he said, "Your servant went nowhere." 26 Then he said to him, "Did not my heart go with you, when the man turned from his chariot to meet you? Is it a time to receive money and to receive clothes and olive groves and vineyards and sheep and oxen and male and female servants? 27 Therefore, the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and to your descendants forever." So he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.

Job 42:1 Then Job answered the LORD and said, 2 "I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted. 3 Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge? Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 4 Hear, now, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You instruct me. 5 I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You; 6 Therefore I retract, And I repent in dust and ashes." (Psalm 73, especially vs 16-28)

"Prayer Answered by Crosses"
by John Newton

I ask'd the Lord, that I might grow
In faith, and love, and ev'ry grace,
Might more of his salvation know,
And seek more earnestly his face.

'Twas he who taught me thus to pray,
And he, I trust has answer'd pray'r;
But it has been in such a way,
As almost drove me to despair.

I hop'd that in some favour'd hour,
At once he'd answer my request:
And by his love's constraining pow'r,
Subdue my sins, and give me rest.

Instead of this. he made me feel
The hidden evils of my heart;

And let the angry pow'rs of hell
Assault my soul in ev'ry part.
Yea more, with his own hand he seem'd
Intent to aggravate my woe;
Cross'd all the fair designs I schem'd,
Blasted my gourds, and laid me low.
Lord, why is this, I trembling cry'd,
Wilt thou pursue thy worm to death?
"Tis in this way", the Lord reply'd
"I answer pray'r for grace and faith
"These inward trials I employ
"From self and pride to set thee free;
"And break thy schemes of earthly joy,
"That thou mayst seek thy all in me."

B. To Discipline His children:

Hebrews 12:4 You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin; 5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM. 6 FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES." 7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. 11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Dueteronomy 8:1 "All the commandments that I am commanding you today you shall be careful to do, that you

may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to give to your forefathers. 2 You shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. 3 He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD. 4 Your clothing did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. 5 Thus you are to know in your heart that the LORD your God was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son. 6 Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him. 7 For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills; 8 a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; 9 a land where you will eat food without scarcity, in which you will not lack anything; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. 10 When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you. 11 Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments and His ordinances and His statutes which I am commanding you today; 12 otherwise, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived in them, 13 and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, 14 then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 15 He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water; He brought water for you out of the rock of flint. 16 In the wilderness He fed you manna which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test

you, to do good for you in the end. 17 Otherwise, you may say in your heart, 'My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.' 18 But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. 19 It shall come about if you ever forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I testify against you today that you will surely perish.

C. To increase our usefulness

John 15:2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit."

II Corinthians 1:5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ. 6 But if we are afflicted it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer; 7 and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our comfort. 8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; 9 indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; ..."

II Peter 1:5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if these

qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

D. To help us realize this is not heaven and that we live in a fallen world:

II Corinthians 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. 17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Romans 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. 23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. 24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees?

C.S. Lewis: Pain is unmasked, unmistakable evil, every man knows that something is wrong when he is being hurt ... And pain is not only immediate recognizable evil, but evil impossible to ignore. We can rest contentedly in our sins and in our stupidities ... but pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world ... I am progressing along the path of life in my ordinary contentedly fallen and godless condition, absorbed in a merry meeting with my friends for the morrow or a bit of work that tickles my vanity today, a [vacation], or a new book, when suddenly a stab of abdominal pain that threatens serious disease, or a headline in the newspapers that threatens us all with destruction, sends this whole pack of cards tumbling down. At first I am overwhelmed, and all my little happinesses look like broken toys. Then, slowly and reluctantly, bit by bit, I try to bring myself into the frame of mind that I should be in at all times. I remind myself that all these toys were never intended to possess my heart, that my true good is in another world, and my only treasure is Christ. And perhaps, by God's grace, I succeed, and for a day or two become a creature consciously dependent on God and drawing its strength from the right sources. But the moment the threat is withdrawn, my whole nature leaps back to the toys ... Thus the terrible necessity of tribulation is only too clear.

The Problem of Pain, chapter 6 – quoted in Readings for Meditation and Reflection, edited by
Walter Hooper, p. 71-72.

E. To allow us to reap what we sow:

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but

the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. (Therefore, Learn to sow to the Spirit)

Proverbs 5:22 His own iniquities will capture the wicked, And he will be held with the cords of his sin.

F. To teach us about our own weakness and cause us to depend on God:

II Corinthians 1:8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; 9 indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; ...

II Corinthians 12:7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me-to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. 9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

G. To have us realize that we have placed our hope somewhere else or have spread it out between God and self/circumstances/other people/possessions:

Exodus 20:2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 3 You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to

those who love Me and keep My commandments."

I Peter 1:13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 6:19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, ...

Samuel Rutherford: If God told me some time ago that He was about to make me as happy as I could be in this world, and then had told me that He should begin by crippling me in my limbs, and removing me from all my usual sources of enjoyment, I should have thought it a very strange mode of accomplishing His purpose. And yet, how is His wisdom manifest even in this! For if you should see a man shut up in a closed room, idolizing a set of lamps and rejoicing in their light, and you wished to make him truly happy, you would begin by blowing out all his lamps; and then throw open the shutters to let in the light of heaven.

John Piper: O how I pray that when God, in His mercy, begins to blow out my lamps, I will not curse the wind. *A Godward Life*, pp. 288-289.

H. To enlarge our appreciation of God's sufficiency:

II Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;

II Corinthians 12:7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me-to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. 9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

I. To expose the true nature of and to strengthen our faith:

I Peter 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, 7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the

revelation of Jesus Christ;

I Peter 4:12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

1. In the face of tragedy, there is much that remains a mystery, and for which there is no immediate answer.
2. The nature of your faith is revealed when you trust God when he is silent.
3. Do you have a faith that believes the promises of God what His Word says about Him when life's circumstances seem to say, "God has abandoned you. He is not love and He is not gracious."

J. To develop Christlike character: (Conform us to the image of Christ!!!)

Romans 8:28-29

James 1:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. 5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Romans 5:3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

K. To expose areas of needed growth.

L. To drive us to God's Word:

Psalms 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word. 71 It is good for me that I was afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes. 74 May those who fear You see me and be glad, Because I wait for Your word.

Jerry Bridges; It is not that we will learn from adversity something different than what we can learn from the Scriptures. Rather, adversity enhances the teaching of God's Word and makes it more profitable to us. In some instances it clarifies our understanding or causes us to see truths we had passed over before.
Trusting God, p. 178

Biblical Resources For Christians In Trials & Suffering:

- A. The Father providentially is carrying out His decreed will for our lives: His will is good, perfect and acceptable:

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. (Ephesians 1:3-12; Psalms 139:1-18).

- B. Christ prays on our behalf.

John 17:20 "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; 21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me."

Romans 8:33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

Hebrews 7:24 but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. 25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

- C. God And The Absolute Necessity of the Holy Spirit!!!

Jesus Christ, the Son of Man, was the first Human Being to be given the Holy Spirit by God, His Heavenly Father, to dwell in Him - a True man = Forever!!!

1. Jesus Christ, the Second Adam, the Son of Man (Human Nature of Christ) was the First human being with perfect Faith/Trust in His Heavenly Father and perfect Trust/Total Dependence in/on the Holy Spirit living in Him!!! [THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY FOR THE SON OF

MAN (HUMAN NATURE OF CHRIST) TO LIVE WITHOUT SIN AND TO ACCOMPLISH ALL HIS HEAVENLY FATHER'S WILL ACCORDING TO THE ETERNAL COVENANT AGREED UPON BY THE THREE DIVINE PERSONS (OUR LIVING GOD) BEFORE CREATION!!!!]:

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh (sarx), and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth [Man is made with a human body (sarx) and a created "living soul" (Psuche) perfectly united together. Jesus, to be fully man exactly like us, had to have a human body (sarx) and a soul (Psuche) perfectly united together; so, He clothed His Divine Pure Spirit-Soul Being (Person) with a human flesh and blood body (sarx) from Mary's womb - Mary being overshadowed by the Holy Spirit to accomplish human conception apart from Adam's lineage (Luke 1:35)!!!!]

Philippians 2:5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus (The Son of Man), 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. [Verses 5 thru 8 of Philippians 2 are talking about Jesus Christ's human nature ALONE; and, is not talking about His Divine Nature which is Totally and Completely Divine, Separate and Distinct from His human nature!!! Jesus did not use His Divine powers, though being fully God, to live out His manhood as a human being. How did Jesus as fully man overcome temptation, perform ALL His miracles and accomplish ALL His works = fulfilling ALL His Father's Will, WITHOUT SIN, since He did not use His Divine powers inherent in His very Divine Nature (His Divine Pure Spirit-Soul Being) to live out His manhood as a human being?] Let us look for a moment at Jesus Christ THE MAN (SON OF MAN = Human Nature of Christ):

Luke 2:41 Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42 And when He became twelve,

they went up there according to the custom of the Feast; 43 and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents were unaware of it, 44 but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day's journey; and they began looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances. 45 When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him. 46 Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.

Since Jesus' human body is exactly like ours (brain, all the organs and all the body parts), He had to learn exactly like we learn - beginning as a child and through out His growing into adulthood. Jesus Christ had Perfect Faith/Trust in His Heavenly Father; and, had the Holy Spirit teaching and guiding Him, while a child/adult, as He prayerfully and diligently studied the Old Testament Scriptures seeking to know His Heavenly Father and to know His Father's Will. The Holy Spirit also applied ALL the Truths of Scripture to His mind, heart and soul while functioning in the flesh at a human level only as the Son of Man!!! Jesus allowed His human body to function exactly like Adam's human body functioned at the time of Creation and before Adam sinned (He is God and does as He pleases!!!). Jesus, having a human body exactly like Adam's before Adam sinned, had to struggle just like all human beings - with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life - which lusts originate from the human body and not from the soul. Jesus, the Son of Man (Human Nature of Christ), was taught the Holy Scriptures exactly like the prophets (men) of the Old Testament - through the Holy Spirit teaching and guiding Him into ALL the Truth. Being FULLY taught by the Holy Spirit, the child/man Jesus Christ (Son of Man) learned His identity = that He is Fully the Son of God and is fully the Son of Man. The Holy Spirit also taught Christ Jesus EVERYTHING He

needed to know, being the God/Man that He IS, using the Old Testament Scriptures!!! Christ's Heavenly Father taught, guided and intimately communed with Christ Jesus (The Son of Man – Christ's Human Nature Alone) as He was living as the Son of Man = His Human Nature being Total, Complete, Separate and Distinct from His Divine Nature!!! YET, JESUS CHRIST IS ONLY ONE DIVINE PERSON WITH TWO TOTALLY SEPARATE, COMPLETE AND DISTINCT NATURES!!!]

Examples of Jesus Christ's Heavenly Father communing with Him as He was being taught ALL the Truths of the Old Testament by the Holy Spirit; with those Truths being applied to His heart, mind and soul as the Son of Man WHILE growing into adulthood BEFORE being baptized by John the Baptist; AND BEFORE beginning His Ministry:

Isaiah 42:5 Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it And spirit to those who walk in it, 6 "I am the LORD, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, And I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations, 7 To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the dungeon And those who dwell in darkness from the prison. 8 I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images. 9 Behold, the former things have come to pass, Now I declare new things; Before they spring forth I proclaim them to you."

(Matthew 4:16; Matthew 11:5)

Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners;

(Luke 4:17-21)

Isaiah 50:4 The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of disciples, That I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple. 5 The Lord GOD (God, His Heavenly Father) has opened My ear; And I was

not disobedient Nor did I turn back. 6 I gave My back to those who strike Me, And My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting. 7 For the Lord GOD helps Me, Therefore, I am not disgraced; Therefore, I have set My face like flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed. 8 He who vindicates Me is near; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand up to each other; Who has a case against Me? Let him draw near to Me. 9 Behold, the Lord GOD helps Me; Who is he who condemns Me?

We will pick up next week to see HOW God the Father helped His Only Begotten Son - Jesus Christ [The very Son of God, The second Person of the Godhead, Literally Fully God and Fully man] to live a sinless life as a man; as well as, to fulfill ALL His Fathers Will as a man exactly like Adam before Adam sinned - WITHOUT USING His Divine Powers to live as The Son of Man, a human being!!!

Therefore, Jesus Christ experienced living exactly as we live as human beings - experiencing everything we experience in this life just like we experience life, having clothed His Diety in the weakness of human flesh - Jesus being one of us!!!

The Son of God - the Divine Nature of Jesus Christ, did not share His Incommunicable Attributes (those attributes God Alone has) with the Son of Man - the Human Nature of Jesus Christ; that is, the Divine Pure Spirit-Soul Being, the Second Person of the Godhead withheld His Incommunicable Attributes from His "sarx" (flesh and blood human body - full human nature). Another way of saying this is, the Divine Attributes of the Divine Nature of Christ were not shared with His human Nature - were not used to live out His manhood; so that, Jesus' human nature (sarx) functioned on the exact same level of a human being exactly like us, truly being one of us who have no Divine Powers. Because His human nature functioned without Divine Powers, it was NOT His Divine Nature that was tempted [His Divine Nature being totally separate, complete and distinct from His human nature], but His human Nature

alone was tempted exactly like we are tempted. He was tempted as a true man through His human nature and not through His Divine Nature. The two natures being totally distinct, complete and separate from one another - Jesus Christ = One Divine Person being truly fully God and truly fully man!!! When The Eternal Covenant was agreed upon between God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ before His Incarnation), and God the Holy Spirit in Eternity BEFORE Creation and the beginning of time, Christ Jesus at that moment in Eternity submitted Himself to God the Father to take to Himself a human nature - separate, complete and distinct from His Divine Nature, in the fullness of time and to live as a human being without the use of the Incommunicable Attributes of His Divine Nature while living as a true man = living as the Son of Man being the son of Mary. Speaking of His human nature ALONE, the Apostle Paul wrote to the Church at Philippi - Philippians 2:6, "... who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself (of His Incommunicable Attributes), taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself [as the Son of Man through His Human Nature and NOT as the Son of God through His Divine Nature = Being God, the Second Divine Person (Divine, Pure Spirit-Soul Being) of the God Head He literally IS] by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

[The First Adam]

Adam, the first man created without sin, being made in the image of God at the time he was created, DID NOT turn to his Heavenly Father and seek for His HELP: Divine Strength, Divine influence and Divine power to overcome Satan's deceptive lies and temptations as well as to overcome the fleshly lusts = the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life originating from his fleshly lower nature. INSTEAD, the first Adam, trusting in SELF = HIS OWN: human wisdom, human reasoning, human understanding, human strength and human abilities ALONE -

DID NOT BELIEVE AND TRUST HIS HEAVENLY FATHER; BUT, listened to and believed Satan's lies in the weakness of his flesh; ALSO desiring, choosing and willfully fulfilling the desires of his own flesh thereby bringing sin into the world with his one act of disobedience. All human beings present in the seed of Adam sinned and became guilty with Adam, being present in his seed at the time of his disobedience - Adam being the representative head of the human race; that is, ALL human beings having sinned with Adam at the time of his disobedience became guilty with him; and, all human beings generating from his seed, being born in his lineage, inherited his sin nature. .

[The Second Adam]

Jesus Christ (The Son of man - son of Mary and the second Adam), realizing the weakness of His flesh as a man, - turned to GOD His Heavenly Father to seek Him through the Old Testament Scriptures - asking, believing and trusting His Heavenly Father with Perfect Faith and Perfect Trust [*A true man living WITHOUT the Divine Incommunicable Attributes of God at His disposal - that is, Jesus Christ The Divine Only Begotten Son of God, before His incarnation, chose of His Own Volition in the Eternal Covenant with God His Father and with God the Holy Spirit before Creation to obey His Father and fulfill ALL His Father's Will by clothing His Deity (Divine Nature, His Very Person) in human flesh (sarx) in the fullness of time = to become a human being and live as a human being without the use of The Divine Powers of His OWN Divine Nature (The Son of Man "did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself" - did not use His Own Divine Powers while living as the Son of man = while living in and through His Human Nature) so as to live His life as true man]* for His Heavenly Father's help = Divine Strength, Divine Influence, Divine enablement and Divine Power so that He could overcome Satan's deceptive lies and temptations; as well as, with God's strength and help (Zechariah 4:6b), overcome the lusts of His fleshly human nature. THE SECOND ADAM DID NOT TRUST IN HIS OWN

SELF = His human wisdom, His human reasoning, His human understanding, His human strength and His human abilities (the weakness of His flesh); But, DYING TO SELF (His humanity), He Believed/Trusted His Heavenly Father ALONE!!!

What follows is How God, His Heavenly Father, helped Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son – the Son of Man [AND Son of God – His Very Divine Pure Spirit-Soul Person giving life to His Sarx = One Soul-One Body perfectly united together as the God/Man He IS] by using only a few Scriptures out of many which Jesus as the Son of Man was taught by the Holy Spirit while teaching/guiding Him into all the Truth; which Truths were also applied by the Holy Spirit to Jesus Christ, the Son of Man's mind, heart and soul while a child and growing into adulthood; BEFORE HIS ANOINTING AND BEFORE HIS MINISTRY BEGAN AS A HUMAN BEING.

Isaiah 49:1 Listen to Me, O islands, And pay attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called Me from the womb; From the body of My mother (Mary) He named Me. 2 He has made My mouth like a sharp sword, In the shadow of His hand He has concealed Me; And He has also made Me a select arrow, He has hidden Me in His quiver. 3 He said to Me, "You are My Servant, Israel, In Whom I will show My glory." 4 But I said, "I have toiled in vain, I have spent My strength for nothing and vanity; Yet surely the justice due to Me is with the LORD, And My reward with My God (Jesus' Heavenly Father)." 5 And now says the LORD (God His Heavenly Father), who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel might be gathered to Him (For I am honored in the sight of the LORD, And My God is My strength), 6 He [God The Father, The Son of Man's (Christ's Human Nature alone) Heavenly Father] says, "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Isaiah 42:1 "Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him [Luke 3:21-22; Speaking of the human being – The Son of Man (Christ's Human Nature) and NOT the Son of God (Christ's Divine Nature), though He IS also the Son of God. The two Natures of Christ - the one Divine Person, are Complete, Separate, and Distinct from one another = Jesus Christ is Fully GOD AND Fully MAN]; He will bring forth justice to the nations. 2 He will not cry out or raise His voice, Nor make His voice heard in the street. 3 A bruised reed He will not break And a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice. 4 He will not be disheartened or crushed Until He has established justice in the earth; And the coast lands will wait expectantly for His law."

(Matthew 12:17-21)

God, His Heavenly Father, helped Jesus Christ the Son of Man [literally His Son in His Human Nature; but also in His Divine Nature as well; though this passage is directed toward and speaking of His Human Nature which is Totally Complete, Separate and Distinct from His Divine Nature!!!] by giving to Him the fullness of the Holy Spirit (Christ means Anointed, "The Anointed One") to guide, motivate, strengthen, empower, and enable His Son to accomplish ALL HIS WILL]:

Matthew 3:16 After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he (John the Baptist) saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, 17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

His Heavenly Father GAVE to His Son, Jesus Christ - the Son of Man (Jesus' Human Nature) [Jesus Christ's Divine Nature IS GOD = Equal to and in PERFECT UNION with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit and therefore not in need of the Baptism of the Holy

Spirit] THE HOLY SPIRIT to help Him as fully man to overcome sin AND to accomplish ALL HIS WILL!!! Jesus Christ, the Son of Man, put His Perfect Faith/Trust in His Heavenly Father for His Help and Perfectly depended upon the Holy Spirit given to Him by His Father - to overcome Satan's deceptive lies and temptations; to overcome the fleshly lusts which incited Him to sin; And, to accomplish ALL His Father's Will = including ALL His Thoughts, Words and Actions - miracles, etc.!!!)

Hebrews 9:14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God (in His Human Nature as the Son of Man and Not in His Divine Nature as the Son of God), cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? [Galatians 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. (Jesus as a man walked perfectly by/in the Holy Spirit with perfect Faith/Trust in His Heavenly Father and Total Dependence upon the Holy Spirit given to Him to HELP Him as True Man!!!)]

Matthew 12:26 "If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand? 27 If I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? For this reason they will be your judges. 28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."

Acts 10:38 "You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, AND how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him [(Acts 2:22) The Holy Spirit given to Him by His Father to dwell in Him as a human being (a human being exactly like the "first Adam") so as to fulfill His Heavenly Father's Thoughts, Words and Deeds as a human being and be the spotless lamb of God to take away sin; To be the Mediator between God and Man (the appointed judge of all mankind), being the God/Man!!!]

[Many more Old Testament and New Testament Scripture passages and verses could be added with lengthy additional explanations to all the above to clarify and support the Absolute Truths of God's Holy, Inerrant and Infallible Word presented!!! WITHOUT the Holy Spirit's power and presence in Jesus Christ's human nature while living out His manhood, (being fully man without the use of the Divine Powers of His Own Divine Nature), Jesus would NEVER have been able to overcome Satan's deceptions and temptations; or overcome His lower human nature with it's lustful cravings; AND, therefore, would NEVER have been able to fulfill ALL HIS HEAVENLY FATHER'S PERFECT WILL AS A MAN WHILE TRUSTING ONLY IN HIS OWN HUMAN POWERS AND HUMAN ABILITIES; BUT, WOULD HAVE BEEN EXACTLY LIKE THE FIRST ADAM WHO TRUSTED IN HIS OWN HUMAN POWERS AND HUMAN ABILITIES ALONE; AND, WHO DID NOT TURN TO, ASK, BELIEVE OR TRUST THE LIVING GOD WHO CREATED HIM IN HIS OWN IMAGE = TO HELP HIM IN THE WEAKNESS OF HIS FLESHLY BEING TO OVERCOME EVIL AND TO LIVE A HOLY LIFE IN ORDER TO BRING GLORY TO GOD ALONE!!!]

THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY for Jesus Christ, the Sinless Second Adam at birth (The Son of Man – Human Nature of Christ) to overcome sin, remain sinless and fulfill ALL His Heavenly Father's Will which was agreed upon in the Eternal Covenant made in Eternity before His Incarnation and before Creation!!! SINCE THE HOLY SPIRIT IS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY FOR CHRIST, THE SON OF MAN [ALSO THE SON OF GOD - EQUAL TO THE FATHER] TO REMAIN SINLESS AND TO ACCOMPLISH ALL GOD THE FATHER'S WILL; HOW MUCH MORE DO WE UNDESERVING SINNERS SAVED BY GRACE ABSOLUTELY NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BE SAVED AND TO BE SANCTIFIED IN ORDER TO BE A CHRISTIAN AND TO LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE!!!

ROMANS 8:5 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the

Spirit is life and peace, 7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

John 1:28 These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing. 29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.' 31 I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water." 32 John testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. 33 I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.' 34 I myself have seen, and have testified that this (Son of Man) is the Son of God."

John 4:7 There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "**Give Me a drink.**" 8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. 9 Therefore the Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered and said to her, "**If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.**" 11 She said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? 12 "You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?" 13 Jesus answered and said to her, "**Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst;**

but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

John 7:37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Mark 1:14 Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel (Christ)."

Acts 1:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; (Believe in Christ) and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Flee to Christ to be saved and sanctified!!!)

2. God the Father AND Jesus Christ His Son [because of AND through the finished work of Christ, AND at the request of Jesus Christ to His Heavenly Father Who sent Him] gives to us the same anointing that God the Father gave to His Son Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior!!! God's Holy Spirit indwells His children!!! The Third Person of the Godhead Lives in us forever starting at the New Birth - beginning the moment we are Born Again!!!:

We are sealed at the New Birth with the Holy Spirit of promise. The Holy Spirit is our guarantee that we will persevere in the Faith:

Ephesians 1:13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation - having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory. (Ezekiel 36:27; John 14:16-17; Christ baptizes us with the Holy Spirit at the New Birth; John 7:37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus

stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.' " 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; - Christ has put His Holy Spirit in us, to live in us forever.)

SOME OF THE WAYS THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US:

- a. The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sins and our need for Christ; draws us to Christ and reveals Christ to us that we might be saved. (John 6:44, 65; 16:8; Matthew 16:16:17)
- b. The Holy Spirit regenerates and renews us birthing us into the Kingdom of Christ. (Titus 3:5-6; Ezekiel 36:24-28, 31)
- c. The Holy Spirit gives to us the gifts of repentance and faith that we might be saved. (Ephesians 2:8; Acts 11:15-18; 16:14)
- d. The Holy Spirit strengthens us in our inner man by the working of His power so that Christ will dwell in our hearts through faith. He increases our Faith. (Ephesians 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; ...; Remember Mark 9:24.)
- e. The Holy Spirit guides us into all Truth (John 16:13-15), giving us understanding; and, applies those Truths to our hearts - writing them on our hearts (I Corinthians 2:9 but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND which HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM." 10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God.; Hebrews 8:10).

- f. The Holy Spirit Quickens us to life AND gives to us the desires and power to overcome our own personal sins so that we might LIVE the abundant life - though not perfectly in this life because of our renewed but still deceived heart AND our sin nature fueled through the fleshly desires of our human nature.

(Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. 12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh - 13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

- g. The Holy Spirit helps us in our prayer life.
(Romans 8:26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

- h. The Holy Spirit sanctifies us through the Word of God.
(II Thessalonians 2:13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.)

[Our Election and Calling assures us that the Holy Spirit will give to us the power to GROW IN HOLINESS - conforming us more and more, over time, unto the

image of Christ; as we work out our Salvation with fear and trembling. Romans 8:29-30].

ADDITIONAL TRUTHS AND COMMENTS:

Romans 8:1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, BUT those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7 BECAUSE the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. [We can deceive ourselves into thinking we are Christians and are in Christ just because we know these truths intellectually; and yet, because the Holy Spirit is not dwelling in us, we never experience these Truths in our hearts and minds by the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit!!! As the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian believers, II Corinthians 13:5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you-unless indeed you fail the test? The Holy Spirit will bear witness with our spirit if He dwells in us, unless we are not dealing with the sins in our lives (Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, ...). The Holy Spirit assures us = when we are walking in the

light. (I John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Jesus, our Lord and Savior, said this:

Matthew 7:24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. 26 Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell-and great was its fall."

John 15:1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing [The Holy Spirit living in us is an Absolute Necessity to be a Christian and to live the Christian Life]. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

I Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you

have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. [The Holy Spirit gives to us the power to glorify God in our bodies.]

D. God has given to us The Holy Word of God:

1. II Peter 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord [Revealed to us by/through the Holy Word of God alone with the Holy Spirit's guidance alone (I Corinthians 2:10-13)] ; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises (Holy Word of God), so that by them you may BECOME PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

2. I Peter 1:22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, 23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For, "ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF, 25 BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER." And this is the word which was preached to you. 2:1 Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, 2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it (the Holy Word of God) you may grow in respect to salvation, 3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

E. His grace is sufficient – He always promises help, not necessarily deliverance.

II Corinthians 12:7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger

of Satan to torment me-to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. 9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

I Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

Philippians 3:11 Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. 12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. 13 I can do all things through im who strengthens me.

F. He has given us one another.

John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Romans 12:9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; 11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, 13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

Hebrews 13:3 Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.

II Corinthians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ. 6 But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer; 7 and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our comfort.

G. A perfect world is promised and it is sure.

John 14:1 "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3 If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also."

II Corinthians 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. 17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

H. Christ is soon to return.

I Peter 1:13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

II Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth

and its works will be burned up. 11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! 13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, blameless, 15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; ...

NOW, WITH YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST, HIS PRECIOUS TRUTHS AND HIS PRECIOUS PROMISES IN REGARDS TO TRIALS AND SUFFERINGS, LET US LIKE JOB, KEEP THE FAITH AND GLORIFY OUR LIVING GOD AND HIS SON, OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST WHEN WE ENTER INTO OUR OWN TRIALS AND SUFFERINGS WHICH WE ALL WILL HAVE IN THIS LIFE!!! AMEN & AMEN!!!