

Advancing Through Adversity

Adversity is defined as:

1. A condition marked by calamity, or distress or anxiety: 2. An adverse or unfortunate event or circumstance:

Psalms 139:23-24 - Search me, O 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.

Anxious thoughts = Divided mind, double mindedness

James 1:2-8

2. Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,
3. because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.
4. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.
5. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.
6. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.
7. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord;
8. he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

Why Does God Allow Adversity?

*God uses Adversity to prepare us to fulfill our life's purpose!

Philippians 3:14... "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Listen, the most dangerous call for a police officer is a domestic violence call...

Judges 3:1-2

1. These are the nations the LORD left to test all those Israelites who had not experienced any of the wars in Canaan
2. (he did this only to teach warfare to the descendants of the Israelites who had not had previous battle experience):

*Adversity can actually help you overcome double-mindedness!

*Working with Adversity is a key factor in turning our potential into something actual!

*Adversity usually brings frustration...

Cindy Trimm – “Frustration is when Heaven is trying to download something into the Earth.”

*Adversity is allowed in order to provoke us to prayer and intercession!

*Adversity will reveal our true heart and release an impartation that is either negative and destructive; Or positive and empowering!

3 STAGES OF ADVANCING THROUGH ADVERSITY:

I. Adversity is sent to cause us to have an encounter with God!

1. TO DRAW US INTO INTIMACY WITH THE LORD:

Philippians 3:10, “That I might know Him more...”

2. TO REVEAL THE FATHER’S LOVE TO US:

Song of Solomon 2:4 - “He brought me to the banqueting house, And his banner over me was love.”

Romans 5:5 - “The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.”

3. TO TRANSFORM OUR CHARACTER:

Genesis 32:24-28 –

24 So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak.

25 When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man.

26 Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

27 The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered.

28 Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome."

“Jacob” can mean “deceiver”, but original meaning is “grab by the heel”

“Israel” = contends with God to not let go of Him until God’s blessing was manifested in his life

4. TO REFRESH OR ENCOURAGE US:

Acts 3:19-20 - “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.”

5. TO GIVE US DIRECTION OR CALLING:

6. TO GIVE US PHYSICAL OR EMOTIONAL HEALING:

Matthew 9:20-21 -Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed."

II. Adversity should cause us to “stand in the gap and intercede” for others:

III. We arrive at a place of being a good and faithful (trustworthy) servant after passing the test of selflessness!

1. Prayer that produces results!
2. An understanding of the heart of God!
3. An alignment of our desires with God’s desires!
4. The birthing of Holy Passion for the release of an impartation of the power of God to the people of God!
5. Patience – the ability to wait with peace for God to work His plan.

We need to always remember that the God, who will not explain Himself before an event, will reveal His purposes AFTER we have trusted.

He may not always speak initially, but He always speaks eventually!

Judges 3:1-4

1. These are the nations the LORD left to test all those Israelites who had not experienced any of the wars in Canaan
2. (he did this only to teach warfare to the descendants of the Israelites who had not had previous battle experience):
3. the five rulers of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites living in the Lebanon mountains from Mount Baal Hermon to Lebo Hamath.

4. They were left to test the Israelites to see whether they would obey the LORD's commands, which he had given their forefathers through Moses.