**Help Me Go Through This Lord**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**1 Peter 5:6-10**

**Wednesday Evening**

**April 29, 2020**

**1 Peter 5:6-10**

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. 10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

**Trials, Difficulties, and Suffering bring out a variety of Attitudes and Responses**

Saints, some people become angry with God for allowing the situation while others are able to rejoice in Him knowing that He’s doing something good in their lives through the hardship. But one of the most common responses is to want to know why this has happened.

**What is the purpose?**

**Why me, my child, or my family?**

Yet so many times, we don’t understand, and God doesn’t reveal the reason to us. How should we respond then?

**When you don’t understand why something has happened, remember these Basic Truths**

First of all, we need to understand that the

**Lord’s Perspective is Complete**

Jesus having full knowledge of the past, present, and future. Ours, on the other hand, is very limited, which sometimes leads us to a wrong attitude toward God and the situation. But the Lord understands every facet of the difficulty and knows why it has happened and what He desires to accomplish through it.

**Jeremiah 29:11-13**

11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Second, we must remember that the

**Lord is full of Love**

His righteousness, mercy, goodness, and kindness. Whatever He’s allowed in our lives is motivated by these qualities.

**Psalm 23:6**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

Thirdly, we need to recognize that

**God’s Thoughts and ways are Higher than Ours**

**Isaiah 55:8-9**

8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

There are some things we will never understand because they are beyond our human comprehension. That’s when we need to give up our quest for understanding and just let the Lord handle it.

Fourthly, we should rely on Lamentations 3:22-23 as we go through our trials. God’s goodness, love, and mercy won’t run out because they are new every morning, and the Lord is always faithful to keep His promises.

**Lamentations 3:22-23**

22 Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. 24 "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"

Saints, Peter advises us to humble ourselves under God’s mighty hand, cast all our anxieties on Him, resist the devil, stand firm in faith, and recognize that our sufferings are only “for a little while” in comparison to eternity

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he may devour.

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**Whenever you experience Pain, Disappointment, or Distress, how do you respond?**

**1. Do you see it as God’s way of getting your attention?**

This should be our first thought when a trial of some kind suddenly hits us. Sometimes God has to use strong means to get us to focus on Him because we often pay little attention to Him when our lives are running smoothly. But if an accident, a job situation, or trouble in our family hits, we’re stopped in our tracks and immediately turn to the only One who can help.

**Psalm 9:9-10**

9 The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, A refuge in times of trouble. 10 And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.

**2. Is God using this to remind you to be Totally Dependent Upon Him?**

The Lord’s will is that we always rely on Him for every aspect of our lives, but our natural tendency is to get along without Him when we can handle life on our own. However, when a situation arises that we cannot fix, solve, or change, we suddenly realize how helpless we are and how much we need the Lord. We are so frail Saints!

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

**3. Could this be a satanic attack?**

Since we have an enemy who’s seeking to devour us, we must consider whether he’s the source of our difficulties (1 Pet. 5:8).

**1 Peter 5:8**

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour”

Since God has provided His spiritual armor for our protection, we must put it on each day so we’ll be ready for the devil’s assault.

**Ephesians 6:10-13**

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

**Is God Testing your Faith?**

The Lord’s purpose in using trials to test us is not to see what we will do (He already knows that), but to strengthen our faith through the experience. He wants us to understand that every hardship or pain is an opportunity for spiritual growth and ever increasing trust in Him.

**James 1:2-4**

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

**Do you have the right to ask God why you’re going through pain or difficulty?**

**1. It’s a Natural Response**

Although our focus should be on how the Lord wants us to respond, we have the freedom to ask Him why He’s let something bad happen to us.

**2. God is under no Obligation to Answer our Question**

His thoughts and ways are higher than ours, and He doesn’t always share them with us, but He always invites us to use our suffering to grow and learn. Our response determines whether we benefit from the situation or suffer in vain.

**Colossians 1:24-25**

24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, 25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God…

**3. But sometimes the Lord will give Us a Reason**

When Paul asked that his “thorn in the flesh” be removed, God told him that its purpose was to keep him from exalting himself.

**2 Corinthians 12:7**

“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.”

Knowing this, Paul was able to rejoice because he trusted the Lord and recognized that He was protecting him from pride and teaching him to depend upon Christ’s strength, thereby ensuring the effectiveness of his ministry.

**How should you respond to suffering and pain when you don’t understand why God allowed it?**

**1. Remember that you are a child of God and He’s watching over you.**

You may not understand His plan, but He knows exactly where you are and what He’s accomplishing in your life.

**2. Recall that the Lord is always with you**

Saints even if you cannot feel His presence, the Lord will never leave or forsake you.

**Hebrews 13:5-6**

5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

**3. Acknowledge that God has allowed the situation for His divine purpose.**

Whatever has happened isn’t an accident, but a vital part of His plan for your life.

**Romans 8:28**

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

**4. Thank the Lord in the midst of the situation**

Gratitude in everything is God’s will for you according to 1Thessalonians 5:18. When your heart is receptive, the Lord will show you blessings for which you can be thankful even in times of trouble or pain.

**1 Thessalonians 5:18**

“in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”

**5. Recall the Lord’s Promises**

**1 Peter 5:10**

“After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.”

This is the good work He’s purposed to do in your life through the trials you experience.

**In Closing:**

**1. Why is it so hard to let go of our desire to know why certain events happen to us?**

**2. Do you think this displays a lack of trust in God? Why or why not?**

**3. The right response to trials is to immediately direct our thoughts toward God. Is this your first reaction? If so, what benefits have you discovered with this mindset? If not, what keeps you from focusing on the Lord?**

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**