

# WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN

## I. Discipline, Judgement or Rebuke of the Lord

1. **PRO 3:11-12** My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.
2. **PRO 15:5** A fool spurns his father's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.

### WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN

#### The Scriptures speak of three major categories of "trouble" for the believer:

1. Tests, Trials, & Suffering
2. Temptations or Attacks from Satan
3. Discipline, Judgement, or Rebuke from the Lord

**So when trouble comes, what type is it? Some kinds of trouble can be avoided and some can not. Each requires a different response from Scripture! So how can the type of trouble be discerned? Is this God directly moving to correct me, or is this persecution for His Name, or is Satan behind the trouble? This is the first of three studies on the subject.**

### STUDY I. DISCIPLINE, JUDGEMENT, OR REBUKE OF THE LORD

3. **HEB 12:5-8** Have you forgotten the word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "**My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.**" Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? **If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.** 9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but **God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.** No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

God uses severe Discipline only as a last resort. If all God needed to justify mankind to himself was a bigger cattle-prod, then Christ died for nothing! No, God's plan for the earth is Love first, discipline last. To get us to listen and repent, he will use deep conviction, the rebuke of friends, coincident sermons, the quickening of Scripture, and every other means before disciplining us. But if we resist God's Spirit of light and mercy, we are promised the rod of correction. When God disciplines, the punishment fits the crime. Time and again, we realize that we can not get away with unrepentant sin. God is sculpting us into holy vessels, and the process can be painful.

4. **JOB 5:17-18** "**Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. For he wounds, but he also binds up; he injures, but his hands also heal.**"
5. **1CO 11:32** When we are judged by the Lord, **we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.**
6. **PRO 20:30** Blows and wounds cleanse away evil, and beatings purge the innermost being.
7. **REV 3:19** [Jesus] "**Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline.** So be earnest, and repent."
8. **ROM 11:22** **Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God:** sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off.
9. **HEB 10:31** It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

### DOES GOD HAVE A "STYLE" OF JUDGEMENT?

10. **REV 16:7** . . . "Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments."
11. **REV 19:1-2** "Hallelujah! . . . for true and righteous are his judgements."
12. **GAL 6:7** **Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.** 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 **Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.**
13. **NUM 32:23** "But if you fail to do this, you will be sinning against the LORD; and **you may be sure that your sin will find you out.**"

### THE STORY OF JACOB AS AN EXAMPLE OF GOD'S STYLE OF JUDGEMENT

14. **GEN 27:6-16** Rebekah said to her son Jacob [his name means "he deceives"], "Look, I overheard your father say to your brother Esau, 'Bring me some game and prepare me some tasty food to eat, so that I may give you my blessing in the presence of the Lord before I die.' Now, my son, . . . Go out to the flock and bring me two choice young goats, so I can prepare tasty food for your father, just the way he likes it. . . ." "But my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I'm a man with smooth skin. . . ." "Just do what I say, go and get them for me." . . . Then Rebekah took the best clothes of Esau . . . and put them on her younger son Jacob. She also covered his hands and the smooth part of his neck with the goatskins.

## DECEPTION USING HIS BROTHER'S COAT AND A DEAD GOAT

15. **GEN 27:19-36** Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. . ." Isaac asked, "How did you find it so quickly, my son?" "The Lord your God gave me success," he replied. Jacob went close to his father Isaac, who touched him and said, "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau. . . Are you really my son Esau?" . . . "I am," he replied. . . . After Isaac had scarcely left his father's presence, his brother Esau came in from hunting. . . Esau said, "Isn't he rightly named Jacob? He has deceived me these two times: he took my birthright, and now he's taken my blessing!"

## JACOB LEARNS A LESSON IN THE RIGHTS OF THE FIRSTBORN

16. **GEN 29:16-27** Now Laban had two daughters, the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel was lovely in form, and beautiful. Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, "I'll work seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel." . . . So Jacob served seven years. . . Laban gave a feast. But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and gave her to Jacob, and Jacob lay with her. . . When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?" Laban replied, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years work."

## LATER IN LIFE, JACOB IS DECEIVED VIA GOAT / CLOTHES BY HIS OWN SONS

17. **GEN 37:23-35** So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, . . . and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites. . . Then they got Joseph's robe, slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. They took the ornamented robe back to their father [Jacob] and said, "We found this. Examine it to see whether it is your son's robe." He recognized it and said, "It is my son's robe! Some ferocious animal has devoured him. Joseph has surely been torn to pieces."
18. **1COR 10:6** Now these things occurred as examples, to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.

## VERBAL REBUKES

19. **LEV 19:17** "Do not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt.
20. **PRO 19:25** Flog a mocker, and the simple will learn prudence; rebuke a discerning man, and he will gain knowledge.
- God will often use men to offer a verbal rebuke through prophecy or admonishment before disciplining us. Instead of letting our pride get offended, we should be willing to accept and give such rebukes within the body of Christ so that we can avoid sterner discipline - the rod.
21. **PRO 17:10** A rebuke impresses a man of discernment more than a hundred lashes a fool.
22. **PRO 28:23** He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favor than he who has a flattering tongue.

## LIFE GIVING REBUKE

23. **PRO 15:31** He who listens to **a life-giving rebuke** will be at home among the wise.  
For a rebuke to be life-giving it must be 1) correct; and 2) acted on. First, we must admit that not all rebukes we get, or give, are of God. The Spirit will confirm the truth of the rebuke. Secondly, even if the rebuke is correct, it will only serve to condemn us if we don't repent.
24. **PSA 141:5** Let a righteous man strike me - it is a kindness; let him rebuke me - it is oil on my head. My head will not refuse it.
25. **PRO 25:12** Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold is a wise man's rebuke to a listening ear.
26. **PRO 27:5** Better is open rebuke than hidden love.
27. **1TI 5:20** Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning.
28. **LUK 17:3** So watch yourselves. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him."

## GOD'S MIRACLES . . . OF REBUKE!

29. **NUM 11:1** Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the LORD, and when he heard them his anger was aroused. Then fire from the LORD burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp.
30. **NUM 26:10** The earth opened its mouth and swallowed them, and they served as a warning sign. (Korah and his followers)
31. **ACT 5:5,11** When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. . . Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

## AS CHILDREN, WE GET THE PUNISHMENT NOW, RATHER THAN LATER

32. **1PE 4:17-19** The time has evidently arrived for God's judgement to begin, and it is beginning at his own household. And if it starts with us, what is going to mean for those who refuse to obey the gospel of God? If even the good man is only just saved, what will be the fate of the wicked and the sinner? Therefore those who suffer according to God's will can safely commit their souls to their faithful Creator, and go on doing all the good they can.

33. **PRO 22:15** Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.  
 34. **PRO 23:4** . . . your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

### WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN, HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND?

Some Christian groups assume Satan is behind every kind of problem. This is a dangerous view, as it comes close to blaspheming the work of the Holy Spirit when God rebukes us. Other groups focus on enduring trials. Yet other groups focus on God's discipline to the point of not recognizing mere tribulation or the active work of Satan. So the next time some "trouble" comes in life, is there a way of discerning the meaning? What instruction has God given us?

Find the Scriptural basis for EACH of the DISCIPLINE table entries below from this Bible study. This table will be included in the next two studies as well for the same purpose. Especially note the difference in how (and how not ) to respond. As you can see, since opposite responses are appropriate, discernment is key. We should avoid and resist temptation; Persevere tests, trials and suffering; and never resist what God is doing, or attribute it to Satan.

|                | <u>DISCIPLINE</u> | <u>TEST/TRIAL</u> | <u>TEMPTATION</u> |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| FROM           | The Lord          | God, World, Satan | The Devil         |
| RESULT OF      | Disobedience      | Following God     | Pride or Exposure |
| HOW TO DISCERN | Fits Crime        | Proves Faith      | Leads Astray      |
| RIGHT RESPONSE | Repent!           | Persevere         | Resist!           |
| DO NOT         | Make Light of     | Shrink Back       | Fall Into         |
| GOD IS SAYING  | We Are Sons       | His Name is In Us | the Flesh is Weak |
| END WITH       | Fear and Holiness | Death and Glory   | Sin or Victory    |

35. **ROM 8:28** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

### GETTING AWAY WITH SIN?

Those who are able to consistently sin and not be rebuked by God are **not** His children. Those who have been born again are seized by deep conviction when they sin, and if they do not repent they are always "spanked" by God for it. Is this true in your life? Do you pass the family test?

36. **PSA 38:1** O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath. For your arrows have pierced me, and your hand has come down upon me. . . My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear. My wounds fester and are loathsome because of my sinful folly. I am bowed down and brought very low; all day long I go about mourning. My back is filled with searing pain; there is no health in my body. (Luke 12:27-28)
37. **1CO 3:13** 13 his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and **the fire will test the quality of each man's work.** 14 **If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward.** 15 **If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.** 16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.

→ If we put our faith in some prayer, formula, or church - and are able to remain in sin without feeling the hand of God, this "faith" is a deception. The only "ticket to heaven" is in a fiery chariot, (**2KI 2:11**) and it is a glorious destiny for the soul but an uncomfortable ride for the flesh.

### THE FINAL CONSEQUENCE OF REBELLION

38. **PRO 1:24 -27** "But since you rejected me when I called and no one gave heed when I stretched out my hand, since you ignored all my advice and would not accept my rebuke, I in turn will laugh at your disaster; I will mock when calamity overtakes you - when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and trouble overwhelm you."
39. **PRO 1:28-31** "Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me. Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the Lord, since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.
40. **PRO 29:1** A man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed - without remedy.
41. **ISA 15:22** But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? **To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.** 23 For **rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.** Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."

42. **1JO 5:3** *This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.*

## II. Tests & Trials

- ACT 14:21** They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, 22 strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. **“We MUST go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,”** they said.

### WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN

#### The Scriptures speak of three types of "trouble" for the believer:

- I. Discipline, Judgement, or Rebuke from the Lord;
- II. Tests, Trials, Persecutions, Suffering;
- III. Temptations or Attacks from Satan.

**So is this present trouble the Hand of the Lord in direct rebuke, or the promised testing of our faith, or are we being "had" by Satan? We should know, so we can respond accordingly.**

|                | DISCIPLINE        | TEST / TRIAL              | TEMPTATION        |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| FROM           | God               | God or World/Satan/ Flesh | World/Satan/Flesh |
| RESULT OF      | Disobedience      | Following God             | Pride or Exposure |
| HOW TO DISCERN | Fits Crime        | Proves Faith              | Leads Astray      |
| RIGHT RESPONSE | Repent!           | Persevere!                | Resist!           |
| DO NOT         | Make Light of     | Shrink Back               | Fall Into         |
| GOD IS SAYING  | We Are Sons       | His Name is In Us         | the Flesh is Weak |
| END WITH       | Fear and Holiness | Death and Glory           | Sin or Victory    |

- JAM 1:12** *Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the victor's crown, the life God has promised to those who love him.*

### STUDY II. Tests, Trials, Persecutions, Sufferings

#### TESTS--

- DEU 8:2** Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to TEST you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. 3 He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, **to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.**
- GEN 22:1** Some time later **God TESTED Abraham.** He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. 2 Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.”
- EXO 20:20** **Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to TEST you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.”**
- PSA 66:8** Praise our **God**, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard; 9 he **has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping.** 10 **For you, O God, TESTED us; you REFINED us like silver.** 11 You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs. 12 You let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but **you brought us to a place of abundance.**
- ISA 30:26** The moon will shine like the sun, and the sunlight will be seven times brighter, like the light of seven full days, **when the LORD binds up the bruises of his people and heals the wounds He inflicted.**

#### TRIALS—

- 1PE 4:12** Dear friends, **do not be surprised at the painful TRIAL you are suffering,** as though something strange were happening to you. 13 **But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ,** so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15 **If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.**
- 1PE 1:6** **In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of TRIALS.** 7 These have come **so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine** and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.
- JAM 1:2** **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.

## PERSECUTION—

11. **JOH 15:18** "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. 20 Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' **If they PERSECUTED me, they will PERSECUTE you also.** If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.

## SUFFERING--

12. **1PE 4:1** Therefore, since Christ SUFFERED in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin.
13. **2TI 1:8** So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,

## "FOLLOW ME... "

14. **1PE 2:19** For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. 20 But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that YOU SHOULD FOLLOW IN HIS STEPS. 22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." 23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, He entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

1. There is a difference between Christ's SUBSTITUTION for us in suffering, and His EXAMPLE in suffering. We FOLLOW His example for the latter suffering, but He suffered FOR us in the former. The principle is IDENTIFICATION & SUBSTITUTION.
2. Christ's sufferings are different from suffering caused by our own disobedience,
3. And these may be different from suffering related trials or temptations which result from attack or influence from our flesh, Satan or his demons, or the world system.

15. **JOH 16:1** "All this I have told you so that you will not go astray. 2 They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. 3 They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. 4 I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. I did not tell you this at first because I was with you.

## DESTINY--

16. **1TH 3:2** We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, 3 so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. You know quite well that WE WERE DESTINED FOR THEM.
17. **2TI 3:12** In fact, EVERYONE who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus WILL be persecuted,

## THIS IS GOOD NEWS ?

15. **1PE 1:6** In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.
16. **2CO 4:16** Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

## SPIRITUAL SURFING--

- **Oswald Chambers:** "The [wave] that distresses the ordinary swimmer produces in the surf-rider the super-joy of going clean through it. Apply that to our own circumstances, these very things - tribulation, distress, persecution, produce in us the super-joy; they are not things to fight. We are more than conquerors... super-victors, with a joy we would not have but for the very things which look as if they are going to overwhelm us... The saint knows the joy of the Lord not in spite of tribulation, but because of it."

## REJOICE !

17. **COL 1:24** Now I REJOICE in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.
18. **ROM 5:3** Not only so, but we also REJOICE in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.
19. **ROM 8:18** I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. 20 For the

creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. 22 We know that **the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.** 23 **Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.**

20. **HEB 10:32** Remember those earlier days **after you had received the light,** when **you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering.** 33 Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. 34 You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. 35 So **do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.** 36 **You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.** 37 For in just a very little while, “He who is coming will come and will not delay. 38 But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him.” 39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.
21. **IPE 4:16** However, **if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.** 17 **For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?** 18 And, **“If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”** 19 So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

#### **ADVICE FROM JESUS--**

22. **LUK 12:4** “I tell you, my friends, **do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more.** 5 But **I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell.** Yes, I tell you, fear him.
23. **JOH 16:33** “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. **In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.**”
24. **IJO 5:3** This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, 4 for **everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.** 5 **Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.**

#### **THE BIG PICTURE--**

25. **ROM 8:28** And we know that **in ALL things God works for the good of those who love him,** who have been called according to his purpose.
26. **ROM 8:31** What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?** 36 As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” 37 **No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.** 38 For **I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,** 39 **neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

#### **BELIEVING THE GOSPEL--**

27. **1CO 15:1** Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 **By this gospel you are saved, IF you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.** 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

- **A.W. Tozer:** "As long as we remain in the body we shall be subject to a certain amount of that common suffering which we all share with the sons of men. But there is another kind of suffering, known only to the Christian: it is voluntary suffering deliberately and knowingly incurred for the sake of Christ.

"Such is a luxury, a treasure of fabulous value. And it is rare as well as precious, for there are few in this decadent age who will of their own choice go down into this dark mine looking for jewels. God will not force us into this kind of suffering; he will not lay this cross upon us nor embarrass us with riches we do not want. Such riches are reserved for those who apply to serve in the legion of the expendables, who love not their lives unto death, who volunteer to suffer for Christ's sake and who follow up their application with lives that challenge the devil and invite the fury of hell.

"Such as these have said good-bye to the world's toys; they have accepted toil and suffering as their earthly portion. The marks of the cross are upon them and they are known in heaven and in hell. But where are they? Has this breed of Christian died out of the earth?"

## WHAT CAN WE DO ?

**When tempted or tried, we should not run from God, but TO God. He is ALWAYS the way out!!**

28. **IPE 5:7** **Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.** 8 **Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.** 9 **Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.** 10 And the **God** of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, **after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.**
29. **MAT 26:41** **“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.** The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”
30. **LUK 21:32** **“I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.** 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. 34 **“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap.** 35 For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 **Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.**”
31. **EPH 4:11** It was he who gave some to be **apostles**, some to be **prophets**, some to be **evangelists**, and some to be **pastors** and **teachers**, 12 **to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up** 13 **until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.** 14 Then **we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth** by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 **Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.** 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.
32. **GAL 4:19** **My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you,**
33. **EPH 4:26** **“In your anger do not sin”:** Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold.
34. **2CO 2:10** **If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him.** And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, 11 **in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.**
35. **2TI 2:24** And **the Lord’s servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.** 25 **Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,** 26 **and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.**
36. **JAM 3:2** We all stumble in many ways. **If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.** 3 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. 5 Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 **The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.**
37. **EPH 6:18** And **pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.**
38. **JAM 4:4** You adulterous people, **don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God?** Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? 6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: **“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”** 7 **Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.** 8 **Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.** 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 **Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.**
39. **1CO 10:11** These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. 12 So, **if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!** 13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And **God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.** But **when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.** 14 Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.

**Anyone who refuses the refining fire on earth will spend eternity in the lake of fire. Anyone who will not bow their knee to Jesus while on earth, WILL bow their knee at the judgement.  
Anyone who does not confess the Lordship of Christ on earth WILL do so at the judgement.**

### III. Temptations or Attacks from Satan

1. **REV 12:9** The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

#### When Bad Things Happen: Study III. Temptations or Attacks of Satan

**The Scriptures speak of three types of "trouble" for the believer:**

- I. Discipline, Judgement, or Rebuke from the Lord;*
- II. Tests, Trials, Persecutions, Suffering;*
- III. Temptations or Attacks from Satan.*

So is this present trouble the Hand of the Lord in direct rebuke, or the promised testing of our faith, or are we being "had" by Satan? We should know, so we can respond accordingly.

|                | DISCIPLINE        | TEST / TRIAL              | TEMPTATION        |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| FROM           | God               | God or World/Satan/ Flesh | World/Satan/Flesh |
| RESULT OF      | Disobedience      | Following God             | Pride or Exposure |
| HOW TO DISCERN | Fits Crime        | Proves Faith              | Leads Astray      |
| RIGHT RESPONSE | Repent!           | Persevere!                | Resist!           |
| DO NOT         | Make Light of     | Shrink Back               | Fall Into         |
| GOD IS SAYING  | We Are Sons       | His Name is In Us         | the Flesh is Weak |
| END WITH       | Fear and Holiness | Death and Glory           | Sin or Victory    |

#### THE ADVERSARY

2. **JOB 2:4** “Skin for skin!” Satan replied. “A man will give all he has for his own life. 5 But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face.” 6 The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life.” 7 So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head. 8 Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes. 9 His wife said to him, “Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!” 10 He replied, “You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?” In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

#### DO NOT DEFEND YOURSELF

3. **MAT 5:25** “Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. 26 I tell you the truth, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.
4. **1TI 1:15** Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.

#### THE FLESH IS WEAK

5. **1TH 3:5** For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless.
6. **2CO 2:11** in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.
7. **Oswald Chambers:** "A man's disposition on the inside, i.e., what he possesses in his personality, determines what he is tempted by on the outside. The temptation fits the nature of the one tempted, and reveals the possibilities of that nature. Every man has the setting of this own temptation, and the temptation will come along the line of the ruling disposition. Temptation yielded to... is a proof that it was timidity that prevented the sin before."

## TEMPTATION 101

8. **1JO 5:18** We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him.
9. **JAM 1:13** When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.
- **Oswald Chambers**: "Until we are born again, [this is] the only temptation we understand. But by regeneration we are lifted into another realm where we face the kind of temptations Our Lord faced... Satan does not tempt us to do wrong things, he tempts us in order to make us lose... the possibility of being of value to God... Temptation is a suggested short-cut to the realization of the highest at which I aim - not at what I understand as evil, but towards what I understand as good... [At this point Satan] does not come along the line of tempting us to sin, but on the line of shifting the point of view, and only the Spirit of God can reveal this as a temptation of the devil."

### THE TEMPTER, AND THE ONE WHO BEAT HIM

10. **MAT 4:1** Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.
11. **HEB 2:18** Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.
- **C.S. Lewis**: "No man knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good. A silly idea is current that good people do not know what temptation means. This is an obvious lie. Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is. After all, you find out the strength of the German army by fighting against it, not by giving in. You find out the strength of a wind by trying to walk against it, not by lying down. A man who gives in to temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would have been like an hour later. That is why bad people, in one sense, know very little about badness. They have lived a sheltered life by always giving in. We never find out the strength of the evil impulse inside us until we try to fight it: and Christ, because he was the only man who never yielded to temptation, is also the only man who knows to the full what temptation means - the only complete realist."

### OUR HIGH PRIEST, OUR DEFENSE ATTORNEY AGAINST THE ACCUSER

12. **HEB 4:15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. 16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

### FIGHT LIKE HELL

13. **HEB 12:4** In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.
- ...In fact, most of us have not even made an honest attempt at resisting temptation. We cave in immediately without much of a fight. "Well, I'll quit doing that next week." "Why struggle now when I know I am going to do it again anyway?" "It is just a matter of time, and now is as good a time as any." But temptation feeds on weakness and bent desires. We need to start struggling to see what holiness is all about, to see if we will like it in eternity with God. We will also see just how strong we are and what we are made of.

## **SPIRITUAL WIMPS**

- One of the things that makes us cave-in to temptation so early is that we often have the sense that we are going to fail anyway, so why even put up a struggle? But are we so sure of this? Didn't the problem of last year or month strike us with the same despair? And yet with God it was possible. Spiritual growth seems so impossible in the moment, and so easy in retrospect. We need to remember how unlikely it seemed we would ever: profess Christ, pray in public, witness, and all of the other steps along the way, as we face the temptation to give up now. After all, this too will pass. We can, and will make it by the grace of God. And God has given us His word...
14. **1CO 10:13** No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

## **ON GUARD**

15. **GAL 6:1** Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.
16. **PRO 16:18** Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

## **DON'T PUT YOURSELF IN DANGEROUS TERRITORY UNLESS GOD IS WITH YOU!**

17. **1CO 7:5** Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.
18. **EPH 4:26** "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold.
19. **1TI 6:9** People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.

## **YOU ARE NOT ALONE**

20. **1PE 5:8** Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

## **ATTACKS OF SATAN**

21. **DAN 6:16** So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!" 17 A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed. 18 Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep. 19 At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. 20 When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?" 21 Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! 22 My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king." 23 The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. 24 At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were

brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

22. **Ps. 23:5** You prepare a table before me in the presence of mine enemies...

- **Oswald Chambers**: "We have the idea that we ought to shield ourselves from some of the things God brings round about us. Never! God engineers circumstances and whatever they may be like we have to see that we face them while abiding continually with Him... They are.. temptations to the life of the Son of God in us. The honor of Jesus Christ is at stake in your bodily life."

### **THE SECRET WEAPON**

- How would a cadaver respond to this temptation? "Reckon yourself dead..." to every instinct, impulse, and desire of the flesh. This is the violence of the war of the Kingdom of God (Mat 11:12). This is the cross we bear that leads to victory. This is "the way of the Lord."
23. **ROM 6:11** In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.
24. **LUK 9:23** Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."
25. **2CO 4:10** We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.
26. **ROM 8:13** For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live,

### **CAN'T TOUCH THIS...**

27. **1JO 5:18** We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him.
28. **GAL 5:16** So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. 17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.
29. **JAM 4:7** Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

### **THE DAY IS COMING**

30. **EPH 6:10** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.
31. **2TI 4:18** The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.
32. **MAT 6:13** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'
33. **1CO 10:13** No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.