

“SHALL WE NOT ACCEPT ADVERSITY?”

Job 2:9-10

When we contemplate all the undeserved blessings we receive from on High, it makes little sense to complain about the unpleasant things we must endure in this life.

I. SOME ADVERSITY IS OWING TO CHANCE

A. Ecclesiastes 9:11

We don't expect the Scriptures to mention luck, but the definition of that word usually includes chance, and chance is real.

B. Matthew 5:45

God sends sun and rain both on righteous and evil alike. So, sometimes bad stuff just happens. There doesn't have to be a reason. Living in a world cursed by God for sin, we should not expect everything to be perfect.

II. SOME ADVERSITY IS OWING TO SIN

A. Proverbs 13:15

It should be self-evident that if we violate the will of the Lord, there will be repercussions.

B. 1st Peter 4:15

We are given fair warning not to put ourselves in situations in which we will deserve suffering.

III. SOME ADVERSITY IS OWING TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

A. Job 1:6-12; 2:1-8

In direct contrast to the previous point, sometimes adversity befalls a person not because he has sinned, but because he has not. Perhaps God is so proud of your uprightness that He brags about you to the devil.

B. 1st Peter 4:12-19

Evildoers are known to target the righteous because of our righteousness. They did it to Christ, so it shouldn't be unexpected.

IV. SOME ADVERSITY IS AN OCCASION FOR GOD'S GLORY

A. John 9:1-3

One man was born blind so that Jesus could give him sight and prove Himself God's Son. His suffering was not about his misery, but about Christ's honor.

V. ADVERSITY FIXES SPIRITUAL FOCUS

A. 2nd Corinthians 4:8-5:1

What we are going through now is temporary.

B. Romans 8:18

Current troubles should keep us in mind of the total lack of problems awaiting in the hereafter.

C. 1st Peter 1:6-9

Our trust in God is proven when it survives tribulation. Our faith gets stronger when we endure.

VI. ADVERSITY FIXES THE SPIRITUAL FOCUS OF OTHERS

A. Luke 13:1-5

People who suffer tragic ends might not have deserved it, but observers can be reminded of their own mortality and prepare, accordingly, for judgment.

VII. ADVERSITY EQUIPS US TO HELP OTHERS

A. 2nd Corinthians 1:3-6

When we suffer, we learn how to comfort others in need.

VIII. ADVERSITY DEVELOPS CHARACTER

A. Romans 5:3-4

The people most likely to lack character are those who've never overcome disadvantages.

B. 2nd Corinthians 12:7-10

Paradoxically, infirmities make us stronger.

CONCLUSION

A. Psalm 73

Frustration that those who most deserve tribulations are the least troubled while those who least deserve them are the most troubled are actually unfounded. God will punish and He will reward. Keeping drawing near Him.

B. Revelation 21:4

Eventually, God will personally take away all our troubles and sorrows.