

Anchored Through Adversity



Romans 5:1-6, Job 14:1

- One of the greatest misconceptions about being a Christian is that we are exempt from any type of adversity.
 - Life here on earth comes with its own unique set of problems, challenges, setbacks and disappointments.
 - Life also comes with moments of laughter, joy, peace and blessings for those who are in Christ Jesus.
 - Purpose – to teach us how to overcome the tests and trials while remaining anchored in Jesus Christ and His promises.
 - Goal – to strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ so that we don't lose hope in times of adversity.
 - Objective – (1) Trusting God in Times of Adversity (2) Growing in Times of Adversity, (3) Joy in Times of Adversity, (4) Patience in Times of Adversity
 - Spiritual Principles – Authority, Agreement, Obedience, Stewardship, Faith, Grace, Unconditional Love
 - Jesus Christ has given us as believers a new life, we are no longer dead in our sins and trespasses (2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 2:1), but that does not mean that we will not face difficulty and hardship in this life.
- Notice what Jesus says about adversity in (John 16:33, Matthew 5:45)
 1. Because of Jesus Christ's death, burial and resurrection, every believer can enjoy true peace.
 2. Jesus tells them you shall have tribulation (difficulty, trouble, hard times, test and trials, suffering and persecution) from the world.
 3. Jesus knew that trials and tribulation were unavoidable in the world, but He knew that His peace would never avoid them. (John 14:27)
 4. Jesus tells them to be of good cheer (don't lose heart, don't be discouraged) by what I tell you – "For I have overcome the world."

A. Here's the unavoidable truth in the matter. Until you settle "God's Ownership Principle" – the enemy will always use doubt and fear in situations and circumstances to unsettle our lives.

- **The Spiritual Principle of Stewardship – God's plan to fulfill my life. Only God through Jesus Christ.**

- **What does the word "adversity" mean?**

- 1. A state of hardship, difficulty, affliction, misfortune, or tragedy that one deals with in life.**

- 2. Adversity can come in different forms such as trouble, opposition, pressure, chastening (correction, discipline), mental or physical illness, losing a loved one, anguish, sorrow, testing or tribulation or experience type of failure in one's life.**

- **The believers must always put their hope, faith and trust in Jesus Christ – He alone assures us a life of victory!**

B. There are Five Things that Believers must know About Jesus During Adversity (Mark 4:35-38)

- 1. Jesus will always stand by His Word. (vs. 35)**

- 2. Jesus will always be in there with us. (vs. 37)**

- 3. Jesus will always supply us with His rest. (vs. 38)**

- 4. Jesus has the power to calm every raging storm in our lives. (vs. 39-40)**

- 5. Jesus' rebuke became a teachable moment for His disciples. Jesus knew His disciples were fearful, but I don't believe He was asking them to be delusional about what they were experiencing.**

C. There are Nine Ways God Uses Adversity to Create Opportunities in a Believer's Life (Romans 5:1-6)

- 1. To reveal Christ's character in us. (Romans 12:1-2)**

- 2. To draw us closer to Him and His Word. (Hebrews 4:16, Hebrews 10:22, James 4:8)**

- 3. To strengthen our faith in Him. (Colossians 2:6-7)**

- 4. To bring discipline to our lives.**

5. To bring us to a state of spiritual growth and maturity. (2 Peter 3:18, Hebrew 5:12-14, Romans 5:3-6)
6. To build our confidence in God's promises. (Hebrews 10:35-37)
7. To turn our focus and attention to God's promises and not the problem. (Hebrews 12:2, Psalm 46:1, Psalm 121:1-2)
8. To expose our motives and weaknesses. (2 Corinthians 12:6-11)
9. To reveal the love of God and expose the plans of the enemy. (Romans 8:35-39)

D. Six Things a Believer Must Remember About Adversity

1. That sometimes things happen in life that are beyond your control, but never out of God's control. God has to be your source in life.
2. Always keep the vision of God before you. (Habakkuk 2:2-3)
3. That trouble in life is never meant to last, it will surely come to pass.
4. Don't lose faith in God. Keep believing and trusting His Word. (Proverbs 3:5-6)
5. Take a moment to reflect on your experiences with God. (1 Samuel 17:32-51)
6. Laughter is the best medicine in times of adversity. (Proverbs 17:22)