

Thanking God Through Adversity

1 Thessalonians 5:12-23

We always find it EASY to Thank God when everything is Going GOOD...

However, During Times of Adversity ...it's HARDER to Be Thankful.

Yet the Bible clearly Teaches we are to Be Thankful even in BAD Times.

1. GOD MAY BE USING ADVERSITY TO GET OUR ATTENTION.

- (Acts 9:1-6; Daniel 4:30-34)
- We can Safely Assume that EVERY time we're going through a Major Trial, God is trying to Get our Attention in some fashion.
- When we go through Trials, we are Forced to Look to GOD for deliverance. (Psalm 121:1-2)

2. GOD MAY BE USING ADVERSITY TO DRAW US NEARER TO HIM.

- In Trials, God Breaks OUR independent Spirit in order to Draw Us close to Him.
- "In the Day of Prosperity we have Many Places to run for safety but in the Day of Adversity we have Only ONE." (1 Peter 5:6-7)
- Through all Adversity, we can Choose to Rejoice. (Psalm 18:6)

3. GOD MAY BE USING ADVERSITY TO STRENGTHEN US.

- God does not allow us to endure bad times to Destroy us, but to Discipline us.
- Could God just ELIMINATE the Adversity? ...YEP, He Sure Could!
- "Our Strength only Increases in proportion to the Burdens placed on it." (Colossians 1:11)
- "If adversity's ready to Strike, God's ready to Strengthen"

4. GOD MAY BE USING ADVERSITY TO REFINE US. (Prov. 25:4 Isaiah 1:25)

- Decisions & Actions have Consequences. (Psalm 119:71-72)
- JOB knew a little about Intense Seasons of Adversity. (Job 23:10)
- A person is not Made PURE without adversity.

5. GOD MAY BE USING ADVERSITY TO MAKE US A BLESSING.

- God's ultimate Purpose is to Rescue lost souls in danger of Damnation. (Phil 1:12)
- We Never Know what route God may Use to make us a Blessing to others. (Genesis 50:20)
- Could God be using your Adversity to BLESS OTHER PEOPLE?

- ***“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for YOU.”***