



## TRUSTING GOD IN OUR TRIALS

By Mary Mayko

**1 Peter 1:6-7** “Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations. That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried by fire, might be found unto the praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.”

Ah, the trials of life that test our faith! How we would love to avoid them, yet when we try, seems the LORD leads us down pathways that are so full of troubles. We wonder if He has abandoned us! The Psalmist cried out to the LORD. Ps.17 “O LORD, attend unto my prayer!” In verse 3 “You have “proved” my heart” the word “Prove” means that his heart had been through the hard testing. To “prove” also means his heart had been closely examined by God, yet no evil was found there!

Funny how we wonder and examine our own hearts when trials slap us across the face! If we know for *sure we are guilty of something, as Believers that are mature or growing in the LORD, we know what to do!* We confess our wrongs and repent from them and have confidence that the LORD has forgiven and removed the sins far away from us! After we have examined our selves without discovering any wrong doing and yet the trial seems to get harder, there are **two questions** to ask:

**One:** “LORD if You have allowed this I know You have a divine purpose for it. Grant me the grace and strength I need to see this through to victory, for I know You are with me! I may not see or feel Your Presence, yet You promised to always be here with me!”

**Two:** “Is this an attack from Satan? LORD, grant me discernment and wisdom! If it is, Your power and authority abides in me through the precious Holy Spirit! Help me to stand on Your Word! As I submit myself to You, I will resist Satan, he will flee from me!” James 4:7

God’s Word is full of instructions on how we must face our trials with His strength and wisdom! *There are no victories we can testify about unless there are battles we have faced and came through as winners because we have trusted in our God!*

### THREE POINTS TO REMEMBER!

1. **TIME:** Don’t try to rush God! Trials always tests our patience and builds endurance for our spiritual walk! The LORD is moving in the problems according to His time table and His purposes. He knows all the details we can’t see or know. There are often processes that must take place before we see the answers to our prayers. We often get anxious that He is either not listening to us or will fail us some way! *(As if THAT were possible!)*

People have sometimes interfered with God's work in their rush to see the problem finished, over with! Remember the story about the little caterpillar? If you "help" him out of his cocoon without his struggle, he will be weak and soon die! That struggle was what developed his strength! If we have asked God to move according to His Will, then step back and allow Him to work out the details! He *does* know what He is doing!

2. **TRIALS:** *We will never know for sure how much we can trust God without the trials* He allows in our lives. Trust will develop as we observe His wisdom in the ways He brings everything together according to His plan! In our trials, we learn to slow down, we learn to have compassion for others and get a better understanding of how Satan uses various means to get our eyes off the LORD! The *trials train our spiritual senses* to discern quicker next time the Devil is involved with a trial! When we have been thru the trials of testing by fire, we shall come forth as pure gold! Job 23:10
  
3. **TRUST:** Each trial we go through can show us how our faith and trust in God is increasing! To trust in the LORD means we can *rest in confidence* that God has everything under control! *To rest in God is not sitting idle!* That rest is active! Those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength. We must have the right balance in life! As we wait, we are to be busy trusting God as though He had already completed the work of our requests, even if the outer appearances seem to be contrary. "I know God will do it the right way!" A good analogy is: I expect my paycheck this Friday! It has been promised to you for the work you have done. It is as good as in the bank now!" *Do we trust God as much as we do our Boss?*

*Thank God our trials and testing are only for "a season!"* When we trust and obey in spite of them, we bring glory and honor and praise unto our LORD! Amen!

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## **“OH ME! OH MY! THIS DESERT!”**

By Rev.J. Kehl Golding

Isaiah 35:1KJV “The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.”

“I walk through a desert *so barren* one would wonder if *any* good thing could come out of it, *but I know* He has called me down to Egypt to teach me His lessons.”

Thus, are the lines of a recent correspondence I received! They caused me to consider the word “desert”.

My dictionary defines the word as follows: “A region so lacking in rainfall, moisture, and vegetation as to be uninhabitable by any considerable population. Any region that is uncultivated and desolate because of deficient moisture, barren soil or permanent frost. A barren waste, deserted, forsaken, desolate and destitute of inhabitants.”

You may be asking yourself, “What is a child of God doing in a place like this?” Yet, most committed Christians speak of a “desert” experience. God’s Word has much to say about the desert, the barren wilderness area of the earth and our life.

In Exodus 5:1-3, we have Moses and Aaron seeking permission of Pharaoh to go into the wilderness, to hold a service of worship to God. They asked to take all of Israel, three days journey into the desert. They saw the need for solitude, full attention being given to worship.

In Mark 6:31-32, amid all the activity, Jesus calls His Apostles and says: “Come ye yourselves apart to a desert place and rest awhile: for there were many coming and going and they had no leisure so much as to eat. And they departed into a desert place, by ship privately.”

There are countless references to God leading His children into desert places, a wilderness to experience His glory!

Let’s look at some of them. In the Mark 6 reference, we see five thousand hungry people in a desert and evening is upon them, and no food! *But Jesus is there!* He sees the need and tells them to sit down upon the *green grass (v.39) in a desert!* (He’s already at work!) He then blesses the five loaves and two fishes, and feeds the multitude! V 42 tells us they all did eat and were filled. He brings hope and joy, even in a desert!

In Acts chapter 8, our Lord takes His servant Philip *from* the revival in Samaria, into the desert place in Gaza to one man, a eunuch, an Ethiopian returning home. He is trying to understand all he had recently witnessed in Jerusalem. Philip explains the good news of Jesus to the man who then takes the Gospel to Africa!

**In Exodus chapter 2, we find a prince of Egypt fleeing to the Arabian Desert in fear for his life! There he learns the ways of the desert life while living with the Midian people. He marries, has a family, and meets his God, the great “I AM!” Moses emerges from the desert, the chosen one to bring the nation of Israel up and out of Egypt. He was hidden in solitude and desert training for the day when he would walk a hundred thousand men, beside women and children through the desert into the Promised Land! Exodus 12:37**

**In Numbers Chapter 20, we have the whole congregation of Israel in the desert of Zin with *no water!* An outstanding person, Miriam has died, the people are hot and tired and discouraged! They rise up against Moses and Aaron in anger! When our two leaders fall before the Lord in prayer, He tells Moses to take his rod and *speak to the rock*, and it will give forth water. But Moses too, was hot, tired and frustrated with circumstances, in anger, he *struck the rock!* This act of rebellion cost him his entrance into the Promised Land! So! Just how important is the desert experience in *your life?***

**In the New Testament, we have a young man named Saul who persecuted Christians. After his conversion he goes to Arabia, in the back side of the desert. He learns many things about his God before going to Jerusalem, and on to his work in Antioch. Gal.1:17-18. This Saul becomes our beloved Paul when he starts his first missionary journey. He goes on to write so many of our New Testament Epistles, and much of our church doctrine!**

**Luke 4:1 “And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.” *What a picture we have here!* John has just baptized Jesus, the heavens open, the Spirit of God descending as a dove, lights upon Him, and a voice from heaven saying, “This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Matt.3:13-14- 4:1. *Then the Spirit takes Him into the wilderness where He is tempted of the devil! All this before He begins His ministry!!***

**Today, just where we are, we are a product of our parents, education, culture, and society in general. Many have been exposed to abuse, perversion of all kinds, even demonic influences, as well as suffering from a lack of education.**

**Nothing short of solitude with God, a lovely desert experience will purge us of these influences. This takes us deeper in our relationship with Jesus. Because so many times, after coming to Him, we do not realize the deep seated hold the past has on us! This hinders our growth and our joy in our Christian life!**

**Our Loving Heavenly Father takes us into the heat of the desert to burn the dross from us, to purify us, and to free the shining gold for all to behold! Remember, we are unhappy in the desert because it is so uncomfortable for our flesh!**

**Embrace the barren desert! God has a work in progress!**

**Rev. J. Kehl Golding 2007**



## “ABUNDANT PEACE”

By Mary Mayko

Psalm 37:7 LB “Rest in the LORD; wait patiently for him to act. Don’t be envious of wicked men who prosper.” v.11 “But all who humble themselves before the LORD, *shall be given every blessing, and shall have wonderful peace.*”

*Ps.37:37 KJV* “Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for *the end of that man is peace.*”

The Lord has promised abundant peace to those who walk humbly before Him and serve Him with their whole heart. While we know we have peace *with God*, there are times our *peace of God* becomes disturbed when some one is hateful with us, they misunderstand us, or we are upset over an important issue. We naturally try to defend ourselves as that is an inborn instinct! Self preservation or even pride can rise up quickly if we are not alert and we can act or say something in a foolish way.

Can we hold our thoughts and tongue in check long enough for God’s peace to calm us down or do we promptly rebuff our accuser? If we have walked with the Lord for awhile, the Fruit of the Spirit should become evident in our relations with others. The Fruit of the Spirit is described in Gal.5:22 with a portion of that being peace! *How we long to please the Lord with all our heart!* When we fail, we grieve and sometimes berate ourselves! We need to remember that every day we must *crucify our flesh!* That isn’t easy for most of us! That means we have to humble ourselves!

How easy it is for us to grieve over mistreatment or some injustice and lay awake for hours at night planning what we’d like to say or do! We often *replay* the incident over in our mind so much we can’t seem to focus our attention back on the Lord or His Word! When we are in such a state we really do not feel very spiritual! During times such as this, we need to force our thoughts on some scriptures we have memorized. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm is one many people memorized as a child and can be the point of *rescue* for us if we will meditate on the words!

Quietly reflect on one verse at a time, saying each word slowly and deliberately! David was a man who went through many attacks against him mentally, physically and emotionally! He wrote this Psalm that encourages our hearts from his own deep personal experiences in life! God’s Word is designed to bring peace, abundant peace to the hearts of His children! Listen to Jesus’ words in *John 14:27 LB* “I am leaving you with a gift- peace of mind and heart! And the peace I give isn’t fragile like the peace the world gives. So don’t be troubled or afraid.”

When David’s life was being threatened by his own son Absalom, he wrote Psalm 3. It helps some people to be able to write their thoughts down in a journal or diary. By looking honestly at your own words, we can sometimes pray more effectively for our needs! It can be helpful to use some of the Psalms for guidelines in recording your thoughts and prayers.

Ps.3:5 LB “I lay down and slept in peace and woke up safely, for the Lord was watching over me.” While the Bible does not promise that every one and every thing around us will be peaceful, it does promise that *the peace of God* is available in spite of the turmoil that may swirl about you!

“Dear Lord! Thank you for your promise of abundant peace and rest! How gracious you are to grant us the gift of peace for our hearts and minds! We praise you for your love and your care for us. When our minds and spirits are overwhelmed, help us turn to you for that peace! Amen.

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