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☞ VERSES - TRIALS ☞

The *rain* came down, the *streams* rose, and the *winds* blew and beat against that house; **YET IT DID NOT FALL, because it had its FOUNDATION on the ROCK.** Mt 7:25

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time *we will reap a harvest* if we **DO NOT GIVE UP.** Gal 6:9

"*He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.*" Jn 15:2

Parables:

Mt 13:24-30 "'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the *weeds*, you may root up the wheat with them. *Let both grow together until the harvest.* At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

Lk 8:1-15 & Mk 4:1-20 "Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, *but they have no root.* They believe for a while, *but in the time of testing* (trouble or persecution) *they fall away.* The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are *choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures* (deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things), and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop."

Lk 13:1-8 Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans *because they suffered this way?* I tell you, **no!** But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them--do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

Lk 21:5-38 "***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. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. *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.*"

Not only so, but we also **REJOICE** in our **SUFFERINGS**, because we know that *suffering produces PERSEVERANCE*; perseverance, **CHARACTER**; and character, **HOPE**. 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. Rm 5:3-5

I consider that our present **SUFFERINGS** are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.

• For the **CREATION** was **SUBJECTED** to **FRUSTRATION**, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, *in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God*. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 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. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. Rm 8:18-25

BE: JOYFUL in hope, **PATIENT** in affliction, **FAITHFUL** in prayer.
Rm12:12

Do not be overcome by evil / negative - **OVERCOME** evil / negative w/
GOODNESS & POSITIVENESS - Rm 12:21

But we have this **TREASURE** in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. Their **SUFFERINGS** for the gospel were great, yet with rich supports. We are *hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed*. We always carry around in

our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. 2 Cor 4:7-11

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a **THORN** in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "***My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.***" *Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.* 2 Cor 12:7-10

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the *fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming* like him in his death. Ph 3:10
Manning 100

FORGET *what is behind* & **STRAIN** *toward what is ahead* - Ph 3:13

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS. I will say it again: Rejoice! **LET YOUR GENTLENESS BE EVIDENT TO ALL.** The Lord is near.

Do not BE anxious *about anything*, but **IN EVERYTHING**, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus... I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be **CONTENT** *whatever the circumstances.* Ph 4:4-7,11

In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And you have forgotten that 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. 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. Therefore, **STRENGTHEN** your feeble arms and weak knees. **MAKE LEVEL PATHS FOR YOUR FEET**, so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

Hb 12:4-13

BE PATIENT, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. *See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains.* You too, **BE PATIENT** and **STAND FIRM**, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! Brothers, as an example of **PATIENCE IN THE FACE OF SUFFERING**, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. Above all, my brothers, do not swear--not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no, or you will be condemned.

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Jms 5:7-13

CONSIDER it *pure joy*, my brothers, whenever you face *trials* of many kinds, because you know that the *testing of your faith develops PERSEVERANCE*. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be **MATURE** and **COMPLETE**, *not lacking anything*.

If any of you lacks *wisdom*, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower. For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business.

• **BLESSED** is the man who *perseveres under trial*, because when he has stood the test, he will receive *the crown of life* that God has promised to those who love him.

When **TEMPTED**, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. Js 1:2-17

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, who through **FAITH are shielded by God's power** until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you greatly **REJOICE**, though now for a little while you may have had to **SUFFER GRIEF** in **ALL KINDS** of **TRIALS**. *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.* Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1 Pet 1:3-9

Finally, all of you, **LIVE** in *Harmony* with one another; **BE Sympathetic**, **LOVE** as brothers, **BE Compassionate & Humble**. **DO NOT** repay evil with evil or insult with insult, *but with Blessing*, **BECAUSE TO THIS YOU WERE CALLED** *so that you may inherit a blessing*. 1 Pet 3: 8