

Struggling for the Good

Trials are anything which call to us to depend on Jesus to be our true joy rather than a substitute to push back our fears or helplessness. Trials are anything which sand off our self-centered sins and make us more like Jesus. Trials are anything that demand for us to respond in faith in order for our response to please Jesus. Quite a pickle, aren't they?! The only way to know if we will walk in faith is to walk through them.

Scripture(s): James 1:1-8

I. The first forgotten command to help us cope with the struggles and temptations of life is to count it a joy to be

_____ . Counting involves taking as many looks as we need until we _____ the joy.

1 Corinthians 9:19-27 19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; 21 to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. 22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some. 23 I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it. 24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. 25 Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; 27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

✓ Ask the question, "What will this struggle change _____ for Jesus?"

II. The second forgotten command to help us cope with the struggles and temptations of life is give endurance _____. Perfection comes as the rough places in us are _____ off or new skills are added.

2 Timothy 2:3-5 3 Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. 5 Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules.

2 Timothy 2:8-10 8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel, 9 for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned. 10 For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

✓ Appreciate the growth that is happening in you even as you long for _____ growth.

III. The third forgotten command to help us cope with the struggles and temptations of life is ask for _____. The defining characteristic of asking in faith is the trust that we _____ receive.

✓ Ask God your questions and look _____ for the answers.

Remember this - Eliminating struggle is not the _____ of our relationship with Jesus.

Our challenge: Take a few moments before you tackle any trial to consider how it might _____ you to shine for Jesus.

February 14, 2021

"I'd Rather Have Jesus"	550
"Love Lifted Me"	546
"Living Hope"	
* Pastoral Prayer & Children's Sermon *	