



UNDERSTANDING THE TRIALS OF LIFE

(PART 1 of 2)

MAY 8, 2023

JOB 29:2-3 NKJV – (2) “I long for the years gone by when God took care of me, (3) when he lit up the way before me and I walked safely through the darkness.

Dark moments, when we can't see what's going on, are some of the most distressing seasons in life. There've been so many times when I've cried out to the Lord asking Him why something is happening. Yet despite all my pleading, He remained silent. It can feel like walking through a long, dismal tunnel with no light at the end.

I'm sure you've probably had similar experiences, when trials and suffering have caused you to wonder where God is and what He's doing. You may have even felt like Job, who longed for the brighter days of the past: “Oh that I were as in the months gone by, as in the days when God watched over me; when His lamp shone over my head, and by His light I walked through darkness” (**JOB 29: 2-3**).

Coping in such times difficult, but it's one of the methods God uses to teach us who He is and how He operates. There's nothing wrong with asking Him why we're going through challenges, but we must realize the Lord isn't obligated to give us an explanation. And I've discovered that if He does, it isn't usually when I ask, but at a later time. Sometimes, we'll have to wait until we get to heaven.

As much as we long to understand everything that's happening in our lives, God's thoughts and ways are so much higher than ours, that they're often beyond our ability to grasp (**ISAIAH 55:8-9**). But He'll always give us enough instruction and encouragement in His Word to help us walk triumphantly with Him through difficult seasons.

Trials reveal where God fits in our lives. Does He have top priority, or is He an afterthought? Sadly, many Christians are so absorbed in their own activities and responsibilities that they have no time for the Lord unless there's an emergency. God uses dark times to open our eyes to our need for Him. So let the darkness motivate you to draw nearer to Him, rather than further away. Next week, we will look at what we should do during this process.

SCRIPTURE READING: ROMANS 5:3

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Don't let your trials blow you down; let them lift you up.