

WHAT IF I REFUSE THIS TRIAL?

Facing Trials...Triumphantly (Part 4)

¹⁰ But he knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold." Job 23:10 (ESV)

⁶ And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? 'My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.

⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.' ⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." Hebrews 12:5-11 (ESV)

I. TRIALS CAN LEAD TO DISCOURAGEMENT.

¹² Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet," Hebrews 12:12-13a (ESV)

II. DISCOURAGEMENT LEADS TO DISLOCATION.

¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. ¹⁴ Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord." Hebrews 12:13-14 (ESV)

III. DISLOCATION LEADS TO BITTERNESS.

¹⁵ See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no 'root of bitterness' springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;" Hebrews 12:15 (ESV)

⁴ You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace." Galatians 5:4 (ESV)

¹⁸ ... Beware lest there be among you a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit," Deuteronomy 29:18b (ESV)

¹⁹ one who, when he hears the words of this sworn covenant, blesses himself in his heart, saying, 'I shall be safe, though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart. ...'" Deuteronomy 29:19a (ESV)

IV. BITTERNESS LEADS TO PROFANE LIVING.

¹⁶ that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal." Hebrews 12:16 (ESV)

Profane means: "The things of God mean nothing to me."

V. PROFANE LIVING LEADS TO DISQUALIFICATION.

¹⁷ For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears." Hebrews 12:17 (ESV)

²⁷ I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified." 1 Corinthians 9:27 (NLT)

⁷ ... Today, if you hear his voice, ⁸ do not harden your hearts ..." Psalm 95:7-8a (NIV)