

“STEWARDING YOUR TRIALS” (Part 1)

Sunday, November 20, 2016

Today we continue this series on *stewardship*. In this series we are placing a special emphasis on service and responsibility—our responsibility in serving God in the sphere of influence He has placed each one of us in.

† **Stewarding your Thoughts**

Defeated Christian living comes from failing to *steward your thoughts*.

Stewarding your thoughts is an **intentional** process. It takes effort and repetition. It takes replacement of the old sinful thoughts with new Godly thoughts.

† **Stewarding your Trials**

Trials are an important part of our lives. A time of difficulty is a time of challenge. The longer a trial continues in our lives the more it challenges us. It challenges the very core of who we are. It can tempt us to question many things. It can tempt us to doubt our faith and our God.

1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is **required** in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 Faithful *is* **He** that calleth you, **Who** also will do *it*.

He is our faithful Master. Whatever God calls you to do, remember that He is faithful to give you the grace to do it. Seek to be a faithful steward of God by *stewarding your trials*.

I. The WRONG Question—_____?

Daniel 4:35 And all the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing: and **He** doeth according to **His** will in the army of heaven, and *among* the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay [*restrain*] **His** hand, or say unto **Him**, “What doest thou?”

Job 38:1-2 Then the **LORD** answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, “Who *is* this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?”

Sometimes we can genuinely be asking “why” from a heart of desiring to know what God is seeking to accomplish. The answer to this aspect of this question is found in Romans 8:28-29.

This is ALWAYS the answer to the “why” question. God desires to change us—transform us—into the image of His dear Son.

BUT the truth of the matter is that this “why” question is best answered by the right questions.

II. The _____ Questions

So what is “God’s Purpose in Purging?”

Consider Job 42:1-6 and see how Job repents. Job draws the conclusion that his knowledge of God before was only second-hand knowledge compared to his knowledge now.

Layton Talbert – When we know God’s sovereignty is not only absolute but also benevolent, we no longer need to trouble ourselves with seeing why God does what He does. We may ask why as many times as Job asked, but we are not likely to get any more of an explanation than he got. “The only course for man is humbly to acknowledge his own incompetence, to put absolute trust in God knowing that His dispositions, whatever they may be, are wise and just and good.”

This concerns the first phrase of our mission statement—to supremely love God. God want to deepen our devotion to Him. He wants us to grow in our love for Him as we understand more about Who He is.

A. Who is the _____ — Who is in Control? (John 15:1)

Considering God’s authority, consider a few stabilizing truths that help us in properly seeing Who this Authority is—consider God’s character.

1. Remember that He is the God of _____

a. His purpose is _____ (John 15:2)

b. His purpose is Christ-_____ (Romans 8:28-29)

Romans 8:28-29 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love **God**, to them who are the called according to **His** purpose. **29** For whom **He** did foreknow, **He** also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that **He** might be the firstborn among many brethren.

c. His purpose is _____ (Isaiah 55:8-13)

Cf. Isaiah 55:8-12 – God has a purpose for all things He does.

The purpose of God’s Word is that all creation would rise in worship of the Creator. The purpose is that creation would be in awe of its Creator.

2. Remember that He is the God of _____

Jeremiah 31:3 The **LORD** hath appeared of old unto me, *saying*, “Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.”

Cf. Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9-10

3. Remember that He is the God that is _____

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you,” saith the **LORD**, “thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”

Cf. James 1:17:

Romans 8:32 He that spared not **His** own **Son**, but delivered **Him** up for us all, how shall **He** not with **Him** also freely give us all things?

4. Remember that He is the God of _____

Job 8:3 Doth **God** pervert judgment? or doth the **Almighty** pervert justice?

Genesis 18:25 That be far from thee to do after this manner, to say the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from **Thee**: Shall not the **Judge** of all the earth do right?

Cf. Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 33:4-5

5. Remember that He is the God who is _____

Numbers 23:19 God *is* not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do *it*? or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?

Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that the LORD thy God, He is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments to a thousand generations;

So with these foundational truths in mind, next week we will consider the “what” questions: “What does God want to teach me?” & “What does God want me to do?”

Remember God’s purpose in this purging process—in the trials of life.

Remember WHO God is! Let God show Himself to you. Let Him draw you closer to Him to see His greatness in your weakness; to see His sufficiency in your insufficiency. Let Him be more than enough to you.



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