

June 2026

Dear Brethren:

Greetings to everyone! I hope that you are all doing well, especially in times like these when our everyday lives have become more and more challenging. May we remain strong and continue to follow God's commandments as His chosen people.

Brethren, as the chosen people of God who follow His commandments and observe His Feasts—Feasts that we observe with challenges and sacrifices in our worldly situations—do we sometimes question why we experience hard times?

We do have some brethren who are going through very difficult periods in their lives. Maybe we could agree that, generally speaking, we face different problems; many of us have health problems or financial difficulties, and there are also some who have problems in their families. These are the three major difficulties of some of our brethren in the church.

This is why sometimes we think that other people who do not even go to church, who are not godly, seem to be living good lives.

Why Trials?

However, the trials that baptized members of the church experience have a greater purpose according to the Bible. These "trials" or "hardships" God allows us to experience in order to shape our character and strengthen our faith.

These are the reasons why we, the chosen people of God, need trials:

1. To Strengthen Our Faith

Just like gold refined by fire after fire, our faith is refined by trials to make it pure and strong. Our trials are there to test our faith, to become like gold refined by fire.

2. To Build Endurance and Character

The adversities we experience teach us to be patient and to trust God. By this, we are molded to become better and better over time.

3. To Rely on God and Not on Ourselves

Trials reveal our weaknesses, allowing us to draw closer to rely upon God instead of our own strength. God tests us so that we can learn to trust and rely on Him and not our own abilities.

4. To Become More Like Christ

The purpose of these trials is not to destroy us, but to mold us to become better, and to develop a character like God's. God uses these trials so that we can become like Him.

5. To Prove Genuine Faith

Remaining faithful in the midst of a trial proves that you have genuine faith and not just because you claim it. Trials prove that we are strong and solid in our faith in God.

The trials we experience in our lives are not always punishments, but rather can be a purifying process so that we can become mature, strengthening our faith and trust in God.

Here are some Bible verses about the purpose for these trials:

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing (James 1:2–4).

So, the purpose of trials is to strengthen our faith, for us to learn to endure, and to become mature in our spiritual characters. This encourages believers to consider trials as "joy," because they strengthen our faith, and teach us to be patient and to be more like Christ. It is not joy because of pain, but joy because of the opportunity that teaches us to grow in the hands of God.

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him (James 1:12).

The purpose of this is to prove our faith and love to God, and it will lead us to eternal life; to endure and remain strong in the midst of temptations, difficulties, or tests of our beliefs.

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 (Romans 8:28).

This confirms that overcoming hardships and trials helps us to grow in faith and become more like Christ. These trials that befall us are known to the Lord, and are under His control.

This is a promise that is reserved only for the true believers of God, those who love Him and are called according to His Plan.

Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:6–7).

This means that we believers can find great joy in the promise of salvation, despite the pain of various trials. We experience pain and suffering, but we know this is just temporary. These trials are temporary and necessary to test true faith, which is more precious than gold refined by fire. This verse teaches us that trials are not punishments, but a process of purifying our faith, and the end of it is glory with Christ.

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy (1 Peter 4:12–13).

This reminds believers not to be overwhelmed by painful trials; hence, we will rejoice because we know these trials are only temporary and will lead to great joy when the glory of God is revealed. These trials are not meant to break us, but to improve our character and strengthen our relationship with God.

Brethren, we have no option left. We cannot turn back, or back away, from our calling. We will have to keep moving forward in following God's Way, our only chance for salvation.

I remembered someone asked Mr. Brisby, what if we were called by God in the second resurrection instead of now? Mr. Brisby said that it could be much harder in the second resurrection. If we understand the second resurrection, it might even be more difficult. Why?

After the first resurrection, Satan will be locked up for a thousand years. Then, after a thousand years, he will be released and allowed to deceive and tempt people once again.

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season (Revelation 20:1–3).

After Satan is released, he will deceive people once again. He will double his efforts to further mislead. By then, he is once again eager to tempt everyone. Imagine his being imprisoned for a thousand years in the bottomless pit having his hands tied.

God chooses the ones He calls. He chose us, who are being trained to be leaders before the second resurrection. Let us now go back to the verses about our purpose and trials:

Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving (Colossians 2:7).

The life of the true believers must be deeply rooted in Him, like a tree that is provided nourishment to grow. This means that the foundation of life is Christ, and the sign of a refined Christian is gratitude in spite of trials.

But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them (2 Timothy 3:14).

This is an encouragement from Apostle Paul to Timothy to remain strong in his faith and the Truth amidst trials and false teachers. This means perseverance. Not just knowing, but also having to stay, persist, and not abandoning the true teachings.

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise (Hebrews 10:35–36).

This verse encourages believers to continue and not to surrender our trust in God in the midst of hardship. Trust has a great reward. Endurance is needed to do God's will and receive what He has promised.

We should not throw away nor abandon our courage and confidence in God just because of hardship or persecution.

We have been enduring for a long time now, making sacrifices for the commandments of God, especially those who grew up in the church. For most of us, we are here because of our parents, who are already asleep. We are very blessed to have been called by God, and to continue to follow His commandments.

So, brethren, to continue to follow the Truth is to continue in choosing to trust in God's Plan, even in the midst of trials.

If there are things you want to ask of God in this temporary world, God will test you in three ways:

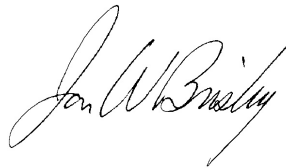
1. He gives you what you want immediately, which tests your *gratitude*.
2. He does not give you what you want, which tests your *faith*.
3. He delays what you want, which tests your *patience*.

This is God's Way, brethren. Let us keep praying because God is always listening. Let us trust in God's Plan; let us not lose hope, even if we face difficulties, because God has a purpose for every trial that we go through.

Your brother in Christ,



Rolando Flores, Jr.



Jon W. Brisby