

PERSEVERANCE, CHARACTER, HOPE...

It seems that there are three vital attributes a Christian cannot fully develop in his or her life without the presence of suffering. The longer and more intense the suffering, the more perseverance, character and hope has the potential to grow. Even though our human response is to desire comfort and ease, God’s plan for us includes difficulty in order to produce good for us. The next time you encounter a trial, remember these three truths:

We develop _____ when we _____,
because Christ’s _____ fills us.

We develop _____ when we stand in
_____, because Christ’s _____ fills us.

We develop _____ when we wait in
_____, because Christ’s _____ fills us.

Discussion Questions

Getting Started

What is one of the most amazing physical vantage points you have ever been standing on? How far could you see into the distance? What kind of perspective did you have?

Digging Deeper

Read about “perseverance” (Luke 8:15; 21:19; Rom 15:4-5; 2 Cor 1:6; 6:4; Col 1:11; 1 Thess 1:3; 2 Thess 1:4; 3:5; 1 Tim 6:11; 2 Tim 3:10; Titus 2:2; Heb 10:36; 12:1; James 1:3-4; 5:11; 2 Peter 1:6). Have you become more patient with certain situations and with other people because of trials?

Read about “character” (2 Cor 2:9; 8:2; 9:13; 13:3; Phil 2:22; Heb 3:9). Character is also translated “stand the test, proof and trial” in the Bible. Can you share about a trouble in your life that made your faith more genuine? In what ways have you been tested in your walk with Christ?

Read about “hope” (Psalm 25:5; 31:24; 33:22; 42:11; 119:114; 130:5; Isaiah 40:31; Rom 15:13; Heb 10:23; 11:1; 1 Cor 13:13; Jer 29:11; Micah 7:7; 1 Peter 1:3; 3:15; Eph 4:4; Col 1:27). Are you waiting in confidence right now that God will bring good out of a bad situation? How are you patiently waiting?

Applying the Word to Life

How much do you pray when trouble comes into your life? Would you describe yourself as more of a “worrier” or a “prayer warrior”? What can you change in your everyday life to make room for times of prayer?

Have you ever admitted your weakness to God? Do you need to stand in His grace and ask Him to empower you to handle the problem you are facing? Maybe you need to stop saying, “I’m okay, I’ve got this, I’ll be fine” and say, “I need you, Lord.”