

When Adversity Strikes, What Then?



2 Corinthians 11:23-28 KJV

[23] Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. [24] Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. [25] Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; [26] In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; [27] In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. [28] Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

All adversity is not bad and if I respond to adversity correctly, God can use it to direct my path. We should be sensitive to the pain that others go through even though we haven't experienced the particular situation ourselves.

An Intimate Look at Adversity

1. Adversity is universal
2. Adversity is sudden
3. Adversity is prolonged
4. Adversity is beyond our control sometimes

Some Questions We Have regarding Adversity

1. WHY?

It's natural for us to ask God why we suffer through adversity, we may never know at the time but we should walk with faith that God is in charge of our life and has perfect reasons for directing our life in the way he sees fit. God knows what's best for us.

2. WHO?

We are responsible for many of the consequences in our life because of actions or decisions we've made in the past. God allows us to choose our ways even though he knows it leads to a dead end. Satan also leads us astray doing everything in his power to destroy our testimony and to keep our mind off God. God can also be the source of adversity. God uses trials to teach us his ways and to strengthen our faith.

We Respond to Adversity in a Variety of Ways

1. Blame
2. Escape
3. Denial
4. Pity Party
5. Self Destruct
6. Seek God's Purpose for Allowing it

Principles to Remember During Adversity

1. Adversity is one of God's most effective tools for strengthen our faith.
2. God often sends adversity to instruct us.
3. We are never alone in our adversity, God is always with us.
4. Adversity can be a precious gift from God.