



Examples of Adversity:

- **Difficulties** – “Why is life so **hard**?”
- **Struggles** – “Why is everything going **against** me?”
- **Opposition** from others – Why does everyone **hate** me?”
- Continued **failures** in finances – “Why can’t I get ahead **financially**?”
- **Mental**, emotional or spiritual battles – “Why do I feel so **depressed**?”
- **Physical** illness – “When will I get over this **sickness**?”
- **Demonic** oppression – “Why do I have so many **fears**?”

Why do we face adversity?

•Adversity – Possible Reasons:

- **The result** of our **own poor choices** • – **The result** of the **choices of others.** • – **Attack** from the enemy

•Adversity – Possible Reasons:

- **Trials** are simply a natural part of our **human experience.**
- God wants to **teach** us something
- Our **challenges** can help us **grow spiritually** and **become more like Jesus Christ.**

When we ask the question, “WHY?”

It Really Means 1 of 2 Things:

- 1.) I really want to **understand** and **learn** how to **deal with it.**
- 2.) I don’t **like** this... I **reject** this.
 - *Then we never learn the true “why”*

1. Adversity is God’s Method of Purifying Our Faith

1 Peter 1:6,7 *In this you greatly rejoice, though **now for a little** while you may have had to **suffer grief in all kinds of trials.***

*These have come so that **your faith**—of greater worth than **gold**, which perishes even **though refined by fire,***

*—may be proved **genuine** and **may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.***

2. Adversity is God’s Way of Getting Our Attention

- **We are distracted by many things (Martha and Mary)**
- **Luke 10:40** *“But Martha was **distracted** with much serving. And she went up to him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.”*
- *But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are **anxious** and **troubled** about **many things, but one thing is necessary.** Mary has **chosen** the **good portion**, which will not be taken away from her.”*
- **Jesus wants our attention**
- *The “good portion” is to sit and hear Jesus*



Matt 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke on you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and **you will find rest** for your souls."

- God's "yoke" is when we willingly place our necks *within His parameters*, and follow His leading, *turning, stopping and starting*.

3. Adversity is Our Assurance that God Loves Us

- Chastening is correction; good discipline; excellent training

Heb.12:10 "Now, no chastening seems *joyous*,; but *grievous*; nevertheless, *afterwards* it yields the **peaceable fruit of righteousness**."

- There is a **set time** for God's training... work with Him to learn it **sooner!**
- There is a wonderful **result** after hard training!

4. Adversity is God's Call for Self- Examination

1 Cor 11:31 "Let a person **examine himself**, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks **without discerning the body** eats and drinks judgment on himself. **That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.**"

5. Adversity is God's Way of Conquering Our Pride

- The reason God humbles us with adversity is to be able to give us more grace!

James 4:6 "...But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the **proud** but gives **grace to the humble.**"

Pride is a hindrance to any sustained success in life.

- We face God's loving opposition and reproof.
- Balaam's stubbornness and foolish actions had to be restrained by an angel of God that even a donkey avoided!

Numb 22:32 "The angel of the LORD asked him, "**Why** have you beaten your donkey these three times? I have come here to oppose you because **your path is a reckless one before me**. The donkey saw me and turned away from me these three times. If she had not turned away, I would certainly have killed you by now, but I would have spared her."