

*Lessons from*


# How to Handle Adversity

The thorn in the flesh



# Causes of adversity

- It can be the result of sin in our life.
  - Fear
  - Anger
  - Pride
- To allow God to show His glory.
- The Adversary Himself.
- Other people's sins.
- Stuff happens




“If murder of the perfect Son of God can be explained, how much more can we trust that God is accomplishing His purposes through the adversity we face every day?” – Charles Stanley




# The power of perspective


- It all looks good two years later.
- It all looks good when you see your brothers' plight.
- It will all look good when we get to heaven.



“If anything is clear from this story (the story of Lazarus’ death), it is that some things are so important to God that they are worth interrupting the happiness and health of His children in order to accomplish them.” – Charles Stanley



“Suffering is the means by which God brings glory to Himself and to His Son. Although suffering is usually the last thing to be considered useful, it is God’s most useful tool. Nothing compares with suffering when it comes to bringing God glory, for nothing else highlights our dependence, weakness, and insecurity like suffering.” – Charles Stanley



“God wants the world’s attention, and often-times adversity is His way of getting it.” – Charles Stanley


“God allows suffering so that others might come to faith in His Son.” – Charles Stanley

# God allows adversity to:


- Get our attention.
- Remind us of His great love.
- Cause us to do a self-examination.
- Conquer our pride.
- Show the power of weakness.







“When we are undergoing the discipline of God, we will have a tendency to grow discouraged. We will be dangerously open to suggestions by others that cast doubt on the goodness and justice of God. If we are not careful, we will interpret God’s discipline for the opposite of what it really is.” – Charles Stanley




“It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.”  
(Hebrews 12:7-8)



# Recognizing the source


- If you are being disciplined God wants you to know it. He wants it to be crystal clear.
- The discipline we incur will be connected in some way to the sin we commit.
- Spiritual insensitivity can hinder a believer's ability to see that God is administering discipline.



“Remember, God’s ultimate goal for you and me is not ease, comfort, or pleasure. It is conformity to the image of His Son.” – Charles Stanley

“God will allow annoying creaks to occur in the floor of our lives – circumstances or people that are a constant annoyance to us. These annoyances are God’s way of drawing our attention to potentially dangerous blind spots, habits, or emotional baggage from our past. Through them, we are forced to do some self-examination. This is the third purpose for which God permits the believer to experience adversity.” – Charles Stanley






“When pride comes, then comes dishonor, but with the humble is wisdom.” (Proverbs 11:2)

“Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, but humility goes before honor.” (Proverbs 18:12)


“Thus says the Lord God, ‘Because your heart is lifted up and you have said, “I am a god” ... yet you are a man and not God.’” (Ezekiel 28:2)



“The greater the odds, the better for God.” – Charles Stanley

“God wanted Paul to minister and live out of his weakness, not his strength.” – Charles Stanley

“Your biggest weakness is God’s greatest opportunity.” – Charles Stanley



“His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of a man; the Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.”


(Psalms 147:10-11)





# God allows adversity to:

- So He can demonstrate His faithfulness and so increase our faith.
- To prepare you to comfort and encourage others



“The best comforter is one who has struggled with pain or sorrow of some sort and has emerged from that experience victorious through the comfort of another.” – Charles Stanley



The end