

Strength Through Adversity

- 1) Adversity where does it come from?
 - a) Adversity is a part of our life it has countless numbers of forms.
 - b) Some people will have more adversity than others
 - c) Some people believe that all adversity comes from the person sinning but not all does some comes from misfortune
 - i) (Luke 13:1-5) There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, shall all likewise perish.
 - (1) The people thought that just because the Galilaeans were sacrificed they were sinners
 - d) Adversity provides opportunities to strengthen human relations
 - e) Good can come from bad
 - i) (Act 11:27-30) And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar. Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.
 - ii) (Act 21:10-14) And as we tarried *there* many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus. And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver *him* into the hands of the Gentiles. And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done.
 - f) (Jas 1:12-18) 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. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.
 - i) When we suffer from sin we have only our selves to blame
- 2) How does Satan try to destroy us
 - a) (1Pe 5:8-9) Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the

faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

- i) Satan can look harmless and even helpful but really he is “as a roaring lion”
 - (1) He is the main source of our adversity
 - (a) (2Co 2:11) Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.
 - (b) (2Co 11:13-15) For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.
 - (i) we must be weary of false apostles
- b) Some people believe that Satan is fictional
 - i) “Recent polls of members of a number of churches indicate that belief in Satan as a real personality is slipping. Even though the Bible depicts the devil as a real being, a poll taken by Gustav Niebuhr in May, 1997, reported that only 35% of Americans viewed Satan as real. According to a 2001 poll by the Barna Research Group, That number dropped to 30%. A number of beliefs about Satan are prevalent in popular culture and reinforced by movies, children’s books, the media etc. There is little or no biblical foundation for these beliefs. They are largely superstitious remnants from the late Middle Ages and Renaissance: 1) Satan is a rather humorous character with a tail, dressed in a red suit, smelling of brimstone (sulfur), and carrying a pitchfork 2) His prime activity appears to be roaming all over the earth trying to persuade individuals to sign contracts which sell their souls to him in exchange for special powers or wealth. And 3) Satan does not seem to be particularly intelligent because he is easily tricked by humans.”(Strength Trough Adversity by Al Diestelkamp page 9)
 - ii) Even some scholars think he is fictional
- c) We must realize he is real
- d) (Eph 6:10-20) Finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.
 - i) We must have the whole armour of God on to defend our selves from Satan
- e) We also must remember that he cannot tempt us beyond our abilities

- i) (1Co 10:13) There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.
- ii) (Jas 4:7-10) Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

(1) We must submit ourselves to God

iii) Temptation can be overcome

f) Jesus is our example on how to resist temptation

- i) (Mat 4:1-11) Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

(1) The way to resist temptation is to quote scriptures as Jesus did

3) Can we find joy in suffering

- a) We are blessed by being able to worship God without fear of being put in prison or killed
 - i) Some are not as fortunate we should thank God for this blessing and pray for the unfortunate
- b) (Jas 1:2-3) My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.
 - i) We are commanded to be joyous when we are persecuted for Christ
 - ii) (1Pe 4:12-16) 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. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy *are ye*; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or *as* a thief, or *as* an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

- iii) “A man named Polycarp was a Christian who lived in the latter part of the first century and well into the next century. By this time a great apostasy was well underway. What part this man played in either promoting or opposing false teachings is a matter of great debate. However, Polycarp’s greatest contribution may be his martyred death. His martyrdom stands as one of the most well-documented events of antiquity. The emperors of Rome had unleashed bitter attacks against the Christians during this period, and members of the early church recorded many of the persecutions and deaths. Polycarp was arrested on the charge of being a Christian—a member of a politically dangerous cult whose rapid growth needed to be stopped. Amidst an angry mob, the Roman proconsul took pity on such a gentle old man and urged Polycarp to deny Christ. To this Polycarp responded “Eighty-six years I have served Christ, and he never did me any wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?” Steadfast in his stand for Christ, Polycarp refused to compromise his beliefs, and thus was burned alive at the stake.
- c) (Rom 5:1-5) Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only *so*, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.
- d) (Php 1:27-30) Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God. For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear *to be* in me.
- i) We need to change our attitude toward suffering we should look for the good in it
- e) it is a blessing to suffer for Christ
- f) (Luk 14:25-27) And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, If any *man* come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.
- (1) We must bear our cross for Christ
- g) (Heb 10:32-39) But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions; Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used. For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance. 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. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no

pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

- h) (2Co 1:3-5) Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

4) Keeping your eye on the goal

- a) All trials are worth suffering through
 - i) (Rom 8:18) For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.
 - ii) (Rom 2:7) To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:
- b) One can endure much when the results are great
 - i) (2Co 12:7-10) And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.
 - ii) (Heb 12:1-4) Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.
 - iii) (2Co 4:16-18) For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.
- c) There is real power in hope
 - i) The hope we have in Christ extends for eternity
 - (1) We would be miserable without Christ
 - (a) (1Co 15:19) If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.
 - (b) Because of this hope when we face trials we can look forward to better things
 - ii) (1Pe 1:3-9) Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance

incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 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: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls.

- 5) We are more than conquerors
- a) (Rom 8:37-39) Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - i) There is no victory like ours
 - b) (1Jn 5:1-5) Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?
 - i) We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to overcome the world
 - c) (Rev 2:10-11) Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.
 - i) If we overcome the world we will not “be hurt of the second death”
 - d) (2Ti 4:6-8) For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.
 - i) If we keep the faith there will be a crown of righteousness laid up for us in Heaven
 - e) God hasn't promised life without trials
 - i) (2Ti 3:12) Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.
 - ii)