

Romans 8:28 And we know that **all things work together for good** to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

Acts 14:12 Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that **we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.**

We should not be at all surprised at tribulations when they come. They are to be expected, they are the normal walk to sanctification. To becoming Holy as the Spirit of God leads us away from idols or sin into his grace and Love. As He does this satan's kingdom has less and less influence and control over our lives and circumstances. When we first believe in Jesus, many of us do not realize that **at that very moment**, we enter an enormous war and we become a soldier of Jesus Christ. The war is unseen and we are under attack and the only way to fight back is through faith. (if we ask for discernment God will help us to discern this war upon us). It is impossible for the flesh to fight this war, the flesh and the carnal mind in fact is the enemy. The flesh will appose us all the way. No good thing dwells in our flesh. The kingdom of darkness uses our flesh and its desires and emotions to hold us in servitude to darkness. Faith requires us to overlook or ignore what our flesh tells us or wants, and hold on to what God says is true. But we, as David, must overcome our own Goliath, which is the mind of the flesh. Our flesh will come under tribulation and trial and temptation in the fight for the faith. Our faith leads us to God and eternal life and salvation. Our faith leads us to come into the image of Jesus Christ. The flesh will destroy us if we give it dominion. Let our soul come into agreement with our spirit through the Spirit and leave our natural nature to come into Gods nature and character. Put on our heavenly nature, put on Christ.

1 Peter 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

Romans 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Galatians 5 16 *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.
17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Without God our flesh is but a beast. We come into agreement with one or the other. Divine or natural, heavenly or beastly, Godly or satanic. We are born again in the spirit and must bring our bodies into subjection to our new life in Jesus. This life is in the Spirit of God. The flesh must die and for that to happen there will be much temptation, trial and there will be war with the

kingdom of darkness. We must overcome the flesh and put on Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15 **35** But some *man* will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? **36** *Thou* fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: **37** And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other *grain*: **38** But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. **39** All flesh *is* not the same flesh: but *there is* one *kind of* flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, *and* another of birds. **40** *There are* also **celestial bodies**, and **bodies** terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial *is* one, and the *glory* of the terrestrial *is* another. **41** *There is* one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for *one* star differeth from *another* star in glory.

42 So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: 43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a **spiritual body**. **45** And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit. **46** Howbeit that *was* not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. **47** The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. **48** As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

One of the devils favorite devices is oppression or spiritual heaviness to wear us out and cause us to give up on faith in order to find relief in false comfort. False comfort is something that gives our flesh a rest from the war and if we run to it then our flesh feels better, but we are letting go of our faith. The devil will constantly bombard our minds with evil thoughts and factious thoughts hoping to cause us to rail on our brothers and cause division. This is to wear us out and weaken us, so that he can afflict us with oppression, heaviness, doubt, fear, double mindedness and unbelief through disobedience. When this happens we can feel abandoned by God, but this is a deception and once again we must stand firm in the knowledge that Jesus died for us while we were yet sinners. We must stay strong in our faith even **despite what we are feeling** and going through. It is to test our faith and strengthen our faith. These trials and tribulations which are normal in the christian walk are used by God to prove who are His sons and daughters. To prove who really believes and trusts Him. **It can seem totally desolate** but we hang on to God. There is a cloud of witnesses watching and we **give glory to God by our strong faith especially in the middle of strong opposition.** We count the trial as joy because we know the trial is bringing us victory (by faith). It doesn't feel that way, but faith calls the things that are not as though they were.

Hebrews 12:3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Psalm 106:42 Their enemies also oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection under their hand.

Jeremiah 30:8 For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, *that* I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him:

Hebrews 12:1 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,

Romans 4 16 Therefore *it is of faith, that it might be by grace*; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, 17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. 18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. 19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: 20 **He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; 21** And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. 22 And **therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. 23** Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; 24 **But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; 25** Who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification.

Oppression, heaviness and weariness is the goal of the enemy. Darkness wants to wear out the saints so that we have no strength to fight. The devil fears us coming into Gods strength because of the power God has entrusted to those who love Him. He will do everything he can to make us feel weary and faint from the battle. Once again we are to expect his tactics and count it joy as we stand firm in our faith despite these things. **Proving we love God by believing apart from everything that seems to say that God is not there or with us. Standing strong in the trial** is what God is looking for. How much do we love Jesus? This is what we are being asked in the trial. We have as our weapon, Faith. In our faith we have all of Gods promises to stand firm upon. The foundation and sure footing. Our Hope is in God and we overcome by Love. In our faith God overcomes for us, He will break through. **The trial can be intense and take longer than we would like but it requires patience and trust and endurance many time to see the victory. We must be patient and not become hasty and fall into offense at God.** We must stay believing, trusting and in faith. We are not ignorant of satan's devises.

Isaiah 28:16 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner *stone*, a sure foundation: **he that believeth shall not make haste.**

Romans 9:33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and **whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.**

1 Peter 2:8 And a **stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them** which stumble at the word, **being disobedient:** whereunto also they were appointed.

Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: **for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.**

Revelation 2 **2** I know thy works, and **thy toil and patience**, and that thou canst not bear evil men, and didst try them that call themselves apostles, and they are not, and didst find them false; **3** and **thou hast patience and didst bear for my name's sake**, and hast not grown weary.

Isaiah 40 **28** Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, *that* the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? *there is* no searching of his understanding. **29** **He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.** **30** Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: **31** **But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.**

We are sometimes expecting blessings and favor instantly and we do have these things, but they are not always in the form we would choose for ourselves. God works all things for our good and so the goal of the Holy Spirit is to remove every idol and every bad habit and hateful thought and emotion and destructive thing that is in our life. To make us fit for his kingdom. The trials we go through have this very purpose. To refine us and remove the dross. He has given us dominion over sin so that we can now choose to come against sin and satan and overcome in the victory Jesus has already provided for us. We stay in faith in what He has done, His finished work. As new believers, we are used to being more interested in our flesh than our soul or spirit. God is more interested in our soul, and has given us a new spirit, He wants to see that born again spirit take dominion over our soul. We strengthen our spirit by exercising our faith in the trials and temptations. We are effectively now at war with our flesh which wants its own way whilst God wants us to overcome the flesh, to purify our soul, through our walk with The Holy Spirit who guides us into holiness through the sanctification process.

2 Thessalonians 1 **3** We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth; **4** So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God **for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:**

5 *Which is* a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, **that ye may be counted worthy** of the kingdom of God, **for which ye also suffer:** **6** Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; **7** And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, **8** In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: **9** Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; **10** When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. **11** Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our **God would count you worthy of this calling**, and fulfil all the good pleasure of *his* goodness, and the **work of faith with power:** **12** That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When we turn from idols and sin and bad behavior of all types in obedience to the Holy Spirit, it causes many times suffering and tribulation. Not only is our flesh afflicted but also our soul can become afflicted as we turn from the things we used to find comfort in, that are now inappropriate. It is very important to realize that this is quite to be expected and it should be

encouraging to us, knowing we are battling against the enemy. But many times as we are doing this and the devil attacks and afflicts our soul and our flesh suffers, we can feel like God has abandoned us. As soon as we begin to obey God and actually walk in love, meaning being doers and not just hearers, we will find ourselves under attack of evil spirits. Everything suddenly feels bad every time we start to obey God and we falsely think God is angry or that He has abandoned us or that we are doing something wrong. This is how the devil plays with our mind and why we are told to take every thought captive. The devil has all sorts of devices to pull us off course and if we believe these devices our faith can be stalled or shipwrecked. To battle with satan effectively, we must continue in obedience despite what we are feeling (tribulation and trial) and not let discouragement take over. **Faith is standing strong in the trial and still believing God.** We are obeying God and often feeling terrible, but we defeat satan as he comes against us by standing firm even amidst the pain and suffering we often feel as we fight to win the battle. We cannot let the pain and suffering derail us, or the demons that are afflicting us win, and remain in dominion over that part of our life. Temptation or trial is the normal walk for the soldier of Christ because that is the road through sanctification to holiness. It's all for the purpose to try our faith. Without faith it is impossible to please God. **So to win a trial of our faith is better than gold.**

1 Peter 1:7 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:

James 1:2 My brethren, **count it all joy** when ye fall into divers temptations; **3** Knowing *this*, that the **trying of your faith worketh patience.** **4** But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

2 Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and **bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;**

The devil and his army of demons are always working through deception, and so it is critical that we gain wisdom and understanding of the way God works. They are working in our mind and flesh and soul to pull us away from obedience to God, each time are trying to obey. If we do not realize this we can come under an illusion and deception that God is not with us but is against us. This is what the devil wants. Or that we are doing something wrong which will bring us under condemnation. We have to rest in God and stay under grace believing God has gone before us and prepared the way. Jesus has prepared the way, the trials are part of that way.

Exodus 23:20 Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared.

Deuteronomy 31:8 And the LORD, he *it is* that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, **he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.**

We must realize whenever we are obeying God, the devil will attempt to use whatever power he has in our flesh, mind or soul to make us feel like we are worse off than before

or condemned, and the trial we find ourselves in is to stay believing and trusting God is with us and for us. We sometimes only have His Word to cling to, but **when we do cling to His word by faith it is that very thing that defeats satan and proves our faith.** This is what defeats him, believing God apart from satan's foul works in our flesh and the oppression and weariness. **Apart from everything we are being afflicted with we go right on believing God.** This glorifies God and proves we are sons of the most high God. We have many promises to stand on. We swing the sword back at the devil and stand strong and defeat him. **But we must realize the trial is quite normal and to be expected so that we do not lose faith in God.** As long as we stay in faith, (abide in God or rest in His promises) there is no condemnation because we are under grace (Through faith alone) and the devil can't do any more than try to fool us. If we don't forsake God he won't forsake us in the trial. Our victory is in standing in our faith. Standing firm, standing strong, enduring, believing, and trusting. **God does the rest.**

1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, **think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you,** as though some strange thing happened unto you:

Romans 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, **who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**

Hebrews 13:5 *Let your conversation be* without covetousness; *and be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**

1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and **this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**

Because God wants to know, or to show us what is in our heart, we are not always sure what direction or choice to make. We try to hear God's voice and it is not always easy to hear what the Spirit is saying. Sometimes if our heart is wrong or we have lusts and things we covet or jealousies, we will hear idols or demons speaking much louder than God. If we listen to and obey these things we are following satan and are servant to him in that part of our life. This is why we need to know the word of God. So that we can discern what is from God and what is from the devil. This is also why we need to be totally seeking the things of God and departing from the things of this world. If we obey the lusts of the flesh or desire things we ought not then we will be easily led to serve evil without many times realizing it. **If we totally seek God and righteousness, then discerning good and evil becomes easier.** Discerning God's voice and direction becomes easier. Compromise is extremely dangerous because it opens the door to deception. The enemy is constantly attempting to have us accept wrong thoughts and so give them power over us by our agreement. If we compromise, that thing will naturally draw us away from God because our heart will easily be convinced when the lies or enticements are put in our mind by the enemy. Because our heart will want what the enemy is enticing us with. We must purify our hearts through the word of God. We must get our heart right before God.

Jeremiah 17:9 *The heart is* deceitful above all *things,* and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Hebrews 5:14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their **senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a **discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

Deuteronomy 30:17 But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, **but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them;**

James 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is **drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.**

The Holy Spirit is continually pointing out places in our hearts or in our lives that are not pleasing to God. He does this because he wants to set us free, not to condemn us. Jesus died for us so that we could be set free through our relationship with Him. We must always remember this so that we stand firm in our faith when we are shown sin that is in our life still. **It is very important we understand Gods motive, that it is out of love.** If we don't we may allow the devil to bring us into condemnation instead, which is another deception. He will work in our mind to bring guilt shame or condemnation and he will work in our feelings and emotions to make us feel these things as well. If we allow him to convince us with these things then we are being deceived. We must stand firm knowing God has done it all and paid it all for us. Our strength is our faith and in the cross. In Jesus finished work. Our strength is in simple believing. **It doesn't feel that simple** many times but if we stand firm it is. God shows us these things for our good. The devil will try to bring us back under the law and so into condemnation. We must believe that Jesus paid our sin debt in full and simply co-operate with God and turn/repent from the sin. Jesus justified us, satan has no claim. Remember **it can be a very difficult fiery trial and we should expect it.** Part of the battle our mind is to **know what is happening,** so that we do not feel condemned or become confused. We have the Word to stand firm on, a sure rock and foundation. Not traditions of men or rituals, but Gods word. Faith. The battle is real, religious behavior will not expose darkness. satan hides in religion, it is like a covering for him to hide under. He likes us to be very religious.

1 Corinthians 16:13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

Romans 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Romans 8:21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the **Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:** for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

1 Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, **that we, being dead to sins,** should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, **thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.**

Knowing God is for us and simply standing firm in believing this is the strength of our faith. **Just trusting gives glory to God.** Our minds can falter though when we allow sin or idols in our hearts. It is hard to stand in simple faith if we continue in our sin and keep our idols. The Holy Spirit will show them to us, for us to repent and turn from them, not all at once but as He directs. If we hold on to sin and harden our hearts we stand in danger of being blinded to the truth and to the way to freedom. **We may then be deceived by the darkness and so disobedience is very dangerous.** Also willfully sinning after we have knowledge of the truth(after the Holy Spirit has pointed it out to us) will lead to judgement and fire. It will steal our peace and the ability to have simple faith. Hanging on to sin is not worth the price. It gives satan an advantage over us. The battle in our mind is hampered by disobedience and the judgement that comes can destroy our confidence in God. It is very hard to hold on to faith whilst being disobedient. Our disobedience can give satan a door to oppress and bring heaviness and confusion and all manner of torment. It can then be difficult to find our way back to grace and faith. Disobedience brings with it unbelief.

2 Corinthians 2 9 For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, **whether ye be obedient in all things.** **10** To whom ye forgive any thing, I *forgive* also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave *it*, for your sakes *forgave I it* in the person of Christ; **11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.**

1 Timothy 1:19 **Holding faith, and a good conscience;** which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

Hebrews 10 26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there **remaineth no more a sacrifice for sins,** **27** but a certain **fearful expectation of judgment, and a fierceness of fire** which shall devour the adversaries.

John 12:40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; **that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart,** and be converted, and I should heal them.

1 John 2:11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, **because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.**

If we continue in darkness, then we will remain in darkness. Jesus died to set us free and bring us into the light. It is a race and not a game. We have an adversary trying to destroy us and if we want to see the way out of this fallen world we must walk in the light. Part of winning the battle in the mind is to remain in the light and not become blind to our sin by stubbornness, rebellion and disobedience. Once blinded, our minds are dulled to the truth, we cannot see it any longer. **Only one wins this race, it's either our spirit or our flesh.** We must overcome the flesh to win the race. We cannot waste time remaining in sin. Seek God whilst we have breath.

1 Corinthians 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:

Luke 21:34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and *so* that day come upon you unawares.

John 12 35 Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. **36** While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.

So as we battle for the faith and try to hear the Holy Spirit and allow him to guide us out, we find ourselves in all sorts of tribulation. If we do not follow the Spirit of God we are blind and in darkness still. We need to take advantage of every day to descend off satan's mountain of sin and climb mount zion. The Holy Spirit is leading us in light and to freedom and liberty from the bondage of sin. **He leads us down from one mountain(satans mountain of sin), through the valley of death(trial and tribulation) and up Gods mountain(ZION).** We battle the enemy on the way.

Psalm 23 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. **4** Yea, **though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

2 Corinthians 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, **now is the day of salvation.**)

Micah 1:17 But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.

Hebrews 12 22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, **23** To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, **and to the spirits of just men made perfect,**

Sometimes in a trial when we become stubborn or rebellious God **in his love** will use the rod of correction. If we fall into iniquity or are struggling with a trial or sin, God uses the rod to give us the incentive we need to obey what we can otherwise not obey or refuse to obey. He is a loving father and will do whatever He can to cause us to repent. **This is out of His love** not anger. The rod of correction becomes more painful than the sin is worth. Our pride may be resisting or a demon of pride, and through Gods mercy He applies the rod of correction. Part of the battle of the mind is to remember God is for us and not against us. When the rod is applied we need to humble ourselves and defeat the enemy of pride or rebellion. We cannot afford to harden our hearts. We cannot afford to become offended at God. If we are His son, then we can gain confidence even when we are being corrected. By overcoming offense and rebellion despite the feeling or power resisting us **against humbling ourselves to God.** God is merciful and sometimes we need to just cry out in repentance and ask for mercy to overcome. It is humbling to the flesh, but pride must be overcome. If we do not endure chastening for the wrong we do, or for correction, how will God be able to lead us to victory? If we do not endure chastening as God corrects us, how will we be corrected and brought into Jesus image? Gods rod of chastening becomes a comfort as we realize it sets us free and we actually need, very much need him to do this. If we endure He can work in us.

Psalm 23 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for

thou *art* with me; **thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

2 Samuel 7:14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. **If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod** of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

Hebrews 12:7 **If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons;** for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

1 John 5 **1** 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. **2** By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. **3** For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. **4** For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith. **5** Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

Many things come against what we think christianity should look like. The real battle can be in the false things we perceive to be true. If we give in to what the flesh tells us and the oppression and trial and temptation and testing then darkness will overcome us. If we stay in faith in God apart from the war in our minds, and the war in our flesh and the spiritual oppression the devil puts upon us, then we will overcome through our testimony of faith. To win the war we must keep trusting and believing God. God uses all things for His glory. He even uses satan who perhaps works harder than any other performing Gods will. A vessel of dishonor. He uses satan to chasten us and bring correction through the curse when we need correction. The curse is to bring us to God. He use satan to cause us to come into the image of Jesus. Jesus was made perfect through the things he suffered. So are we through our testimony of faith.

Hebrews 5:8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

James 1:12 **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.

The trial is to be expected and when it is expected, the devil cannot use it to derail us from our hope. Our hope is eternal life in heavenly places and not in this world. **The flesh must be crucified spiritually** through the power of the Holy Spirit. We must keep our hope alive in God. Count tribulation as joy as it does its expected work in us. Faith, hope and love.

Romans 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, **that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.**

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, **thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.**