

Adversity – The Product

We have discussed adversity – its perspective; purpose & process. In this study we will look at the end product that God produces in us by using adversity for sp growth. We will address the question: “What in the world is God trying to accomplish with adversity?”

Process: Jam 1:3; Rom 5:3 – **katergazomai** – produce under pressure; hammer out

1. **Endurance – hupomone** – capacity to continue trusting God & wait on God to honor His promises; Confidence formed in us through experiencing the faithfulness of God in different circumstances.
 - The first product of adversity is the strength & skill to persevere to the finish line
 - Rom 5:4, 8:25, 15:4; 1Thes 1:3 – endurance is required to develop hope – realistic, confident expectation of God’s goodness and determination to bless those He loves

Lk 8:15 – necessary to bear fruit; 2Cor 6:4, 12:2 – necessary to be successful in ministry; Heb 10:36 – necessary to do the will/God & receive the promises; Heb 12:1 – run the race

 - Endurance enables us to continue in the growth process to develop all the other virtues
2. **Spiritual Maturity** – spiritual adulthood; that stage of CWL where the bel is willing & able to take on adult responsibilities in the family
 - Characteristics – 1Pt 5:6 humility; Job 2:3 integrity; Col 4:12 fully assured; 1Cor 2:6 wise; Rom 4:20 inner strength; Eph 6:10 armed/skilled; Heb 5:14 discerning good/evil
 - Blessings – Jn16:33 peace; Heb 4:1 rest/faith; Rom 5:11 joy; 1Jn4:18 free/fear & mature in love; Phi 4:11 content in any situation
3. **Complete - Olokleros** – having all its parts; all parts integrated & working properly; whole, healthy; Act 3:16 lame man restored to perfect health
 - All aspects of personality, beliefs, functions of the soul have been integrated and are working together in unison - Resolution of inner conflicts
 - Single minded Jam1:4 cp Jam1:8 – **dipsuchos** double-minded, divided; Eph 6:15, Col 3:22 – singleness of heart – heart focused upon and committed to Christ
 - Eph 6:11-17 – whole armor of God – each piece of armor is a belief based on the word; belt/truth is the center piece holding every other piece in place; breastplate/+R – belief in imputed +R & purity of experiential +R; feet/prepared with gospel – belief in gospel & resp to witness; shield/faith – functional beliefs for faith-rest; helmet/salvation – assurance/salvation & eternal security; sword/Spirit – fully trained & committed to apply the word/God – Jesus Mt 4:1-10 utilized the whole armor of God
4. **Lacking nothing** – Jam 1:4 being fully supplied with power & wisdom for life Jam1:5 lacking wisdom; Jam 2:15 lacking daily sustenance
 - Nothing we need to be successful in CWL has been supplied and is functional in your life

5. **Hope – elpis** – confident expectation of future blessing in Christ – our expectations

- Belief system à expectations à relational strategies à verbal & overt behaviors
- Hope is always connected to future blessing – Rom 8:24 attached to what is not yet seen

Rom 5:3-5 – produced through growth in adversity – Godly hope built on the truth of God’s word cp false hope built from worldly thinking – Godly hope never disappoints

Act 24:15 hope/resurrection; Gal 5:5 hope/+R; Col1:23 hope/gospel; Tit1:2 hope et life; Eph 1:18 hope of His calling; Col 1:5 – laid up in heaven; Eph 2:12 cp umbel who has no hope;

- 1Thes 1:23 Endurance of hope – we make future blessing the object of our expectations and we are encouraged to endure in keeping our mind focused on these promises.
- Heb 6:18 – take hold of the hope set before us; Heb 3:6; 10:23 – hold fast to our hope; Heb 6:11 come to full assurance of our hope

6. **Humility – tapeinos** – the defeated, surrendered; **tapeinophrosune** – lowness of mind

- Voluntary submission based on a true opinion of self – worth, importance, ability
- Deep sense of one’s own helplessness – spiritual life, relationship boundaries

Col 3:12 – realistic view of self – worthless/helpless in Adam but chosen, holy & beloved in Christ; Phil 2:3 – realistic view in relation to others – more important than self; Act 20:19 – mind-set of service; Eph 4:1-2 – mind-set of unity; 1Pt 5:5 – mind-set of orientation to authority

- Less than God – God is all, we are nothing
- Equal with others – Position in Adam – condemned, depraved, helpless; Position in Christ – saved, secure, indwelt, adopted, potential for spiritual life

7. **Capacity for committed love** – from God and for others – 1Jn4:16-18

1:16 – known & believed – P.f.A.I – completed state of knowledge & faith

1:16 – the love God has for us – come to know/experience God’s love for us

1:16 – remaining in love – Jn15:10 – active in your love relationship with Christ

1:17 – by this – by remaining and growing in our love relationship with the Lord

1:17 – love is made mature – teleioo – P.f.P.I – mature love relationship with God

1:17 – confidence in the day of Christ – mature believer knows & trusts the Lord and has developed a mature love relationship with Him – will know Him at the Judgment Seat

1:18 – No fear in this love relationship – freedom from fear

1:18 – Mature love throws fear out – reject fear between you & God – nothing to fear

1:18 – fear is related to punishment – immature still struggles with God’s intentions

1:18 – fear = immature in love – continue growing in your love relationship with God

- God has committed Himself to our eternal care – we are safe & secure in Him
- God placed all of our deserved punishment on Christ as he hung on the cross
- He has made us the object of all of His love – Rom 5:5 – poured out in our hearts
- Mature love relationship results in rejecting all fear of punishment and abandoning ourselves to the greatest love we will ever know

1Jn 4:10-11 – here is love – not that we loved God but He loved us – sent His Son – as he loved us, so let us love one another.

Resolving the Past

Phil 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have arrived: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things that are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are ahead.

- Forget - disregard; no longer care about; resolve; to let go
- Does not mean to ignore - to pretend it never happened
- To properly let go of the past requires renewing the mind about the past.

1. Accept that God knew about your past and allowed it to occur - your painful past is a necessary part of a bigger plan

2. Realize that it is appropriate and necessary to grieve over painful loss

- Lk 19:41- Jesus grieved over Jerusalem - wept; Jn 11:35; Acts 20:37
- 1Thes 4:13 - grieve, but with hope not hopelessness

3. Realize the grief will end

- Ecc 3:1 - time and season for all things - seasons end
- Ecc 3:4 - time to weep/laugh; time to mourn/dance
- Grieving resolves itself in acceptance and forgiveness

4. Believe that all things in God's plan are meant for good

- Rom 8:28 - works all things together for good.
- Gen 50:20 - God used the evil of others to make good
 - Growth - Jms 1:2-4
 - Mold - Rom 9:21
 - Prepare you for your mission

5. Move ahead, free from the pain and wrong thinking from your past.