

# How to Thrive in Hardship

Job 1:21-22

Life Group Discussion – March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

There are many people in this world that believe in something completely wrong. They believe that a happy life is one without any problems or any difficulties. But just think about how our lives would be without any of these problems. It is because of our difficulties that we are the men and women we are today, we grow through hardship.

However, there are many people who search for a church that preaches a false gospel of no problems and only happiness. But there is no such thing as a problem-free church or a problem-free family, we must all face them sooner or later.

So if we have to face hardship, how do we not only endure but thrive?

## 1. We must understand that every problem is a way for us to experience God.

When we encounter a problem, God places it in our lives so that we can lean upon Him instead of the people and things that we have been relying upon. Behind every problem is a miracle, but that miracle is only realized when we trust completely in the Lord.

## 2. Hardships are a way for us to repent.

For problems, we always try to blame others or find an excuse. But those who trust in the Lord will look in their own lives and ask God for forgiveness before looking outward towards others.

**The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. (Psalm 34:17-18)**

By looking inward instead of outward, you are realizing your own sin and asking God to save you. This will only please God and His grace with overflow in your life.

## 3. Do not be in despair over hardship, instead be thankful.

**“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.” In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing. (Job 1:21-22)**

Job lost everything: his wealth, his family, his friends, and his health. But even through all of his hardship, he praised the Lord and it was because of this mindset he was able to thrive and please God through the worst time of his life.

God is our creator and the owner of our lives. If we really believe this, then we can be thankful in all circumstances and in the good and bad because God is in charge of us and everything is on purpose.

## 4. The hardships that will come in your life are because God allowed them to happen

This is important for us to not only understand with our hearts, but to say constantly with our mouths.

**From the fruit of their lips people are filled with good things, and the work of their hands brings them reward. (Proverbs 12:14)**

The way you can thrive in hardship is to understand God’s character – He loves you and wants what is best for you. The greatest evidence is seen through the cross, where Jesus Christ died for us.

My brothers and sisters,  
Many of us have face problems and many will experience the most difficult time of our lives, but know that God loves you and he is in control of everything, even the bad things.

Let us be a church that not only endures hardships, but thrives in them.

## SHARING-----

1. When we encounter hardship, it is an opportunity for us to experience God’s power. Has there been a time when this was true in your life? Please share.
2. Do not forget about God’s character – He loves you. When was the most recent time you experienced this love to be true?
3. Was there a part of the sermon that stuck out to you the most? Why? Please share.