



## Why God Allows Adversity in Your Life

*The definition of adversity is a misfortune, a troubling situation, or hardship. A few specific examples of adversity include: Self-doubt. Physical injuries or illnesses.*

*Adversity can have many positive effects on our lives. It can make us stronger and more resilient, help us to develop new skills and perspectives, and give us a greater appreciation for what we have.*

### SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Romans 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.

### SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

1 Corinthians 15:58

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

2 Timothy 2:12

12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

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Philippians 1:6

6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Revelation 2:19

19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

Revelation 3:10

10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

### ADVERSITY IN A BELIEVER'S LIFE:

1. There is no development of Christlikeness in a person's life apart from adversity.
2. Jesus experienced adversity through the harassment of His enemies who wanted to destroy Him and through the agony of dying on the cross.
3. Christians likewise are not exempt from trials and suffering. Difficulties are necessary in the development of our Christian lives.
4. God not only allows adversity but even brings it upon us at times—not because we lack faith or are disobedient, but as a way to increase our faith.
5. Tribulation helps us to mature into the people of faith God wants us to be.
6. Many Christians live in discouragement because they don't realize how God uses adversity to increase our faith. It yields wonderful benefits in the lives of those "who have been trained by it" (Hebrews 12:11).
7. Awareness of God-allowed adversity can spiritually renew the lives of Christians who are not living daily in the joy of the Lord.

8. Often, what I remember as hurtful experiences were actually situations carefully orchestrated by God, who was working in those circumstances according to His will for my life (Ephesians 1:11) and for my good (Romans 8:28).
9. Hebrews 12:4-11 reveals why God's discipline of us includes adversity. The original readers of Hebrews would experience persecution because of their obedience to God. In this passage, God reveals that He allows suffering and chastening to help us grow to maturity in our Christian faith.
10. God does allow us to suffer as a way of punishing us for disobedience, but not all our discipline from God is because we have done something wrong. God uses difficulties and hardships as a means of needed correction, but they are also God's methods of helpful, faith-maturing discipline.
11. One example of the disciplines of God is divine darkness. God places a person into a period of extended, mostly private meditation to produce deeper fellowship with Him.
12. Among individuals in the Bible who experienced such adversity are David (2 Samuel 22:29-32), Job (Job 19:8; 23:17; 30:26), Jeremiah (Lamentations 3:2), Isaiah (Isaiah 50:10), and Micah (Micah 7:8).
13. Another example, the divine discipline of delay, is illustrated in the life of Moses. It involves a period of waiting after hearing God's original call regarding a matter.
14. While he was royalty living in a palace, Moses had a desire to help his fellow Israelites. He was chosen by God to lead the Israelites out of bondage, but he initially sought to do it in the strength of the flesh (Exodus 2:11-15).
15. God sent Moses to the far side of the wilderness for 40 years to get the Egypt out of Moses so that he could get the Israelites out of Egypt in the power of the Spirit.
16. God uses adversity not only to benefit us personally but also to benefit others. As God helps us through adversity, we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God (2 Corinthians 1:4).
17. Adversity helps our faith to grow in countless ways. God can use any kind of adversity we experience for our good and for the benefit of others. It is His training ground for spiritual maturity. James 1:12

#### **FIVE KEY POINTS:**

1. Adversity is a part of life, but it doesn't have to define you.
2. You can use adversity to propel you into your purpose.
3. God has a plan for your life, and adversity can be a part of that plan.
4. Don't give up; keep pushing through.
5. Let adversity make you stronger, not bitter.

#### **QUOTE:**

"And once the storm is over, you won't remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won't even be sure, whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain. When you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in. That's what this storm's all about."

— Haruki Murakami, *Kafka on the Shore*