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THE BENEFIT OF TRIBULATION

If I were to ask people if they like to wait, I will have to say that in most cases the answer would be a loud NO! Most of us want things to come together in “our timing” and often because it doesn't, we get upset.

Waiting could be called “patience” in the list of virtues that are the fruit of the Spirit. Did you know patience is often developed through adversity? The scripture tells us in Romans 5:3 ***“And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience.”***

Tribulation is defined as pressure, affliction, anguish, burdened, persecution, trouble. Those don't sound like things any of us want in our life, but through these adverse things one of two things will happen. We will either live an overcoming victorious life, or we will live a defeated life. These things (tribulations) serve as sandpaper, rubbing off our rough edges. Most of us have plenty of rough edges, but the sanding process is necessary to become polished. Then, when we become perfectly polished, the reflection of Jesus is seen in us when others look at us.

Having difficult days? Well, you can learn to praise the Lord through them, or mumble and grumble and complain. The Hebrew children in the wilderness grumbled and it cost them 40 years in the wilderness. Many died because of this. God is not trying to destroy us through the “growing patience” process, he is trying to refine us. Tribulation brings us into the fire and burns away all that is not of God. The apostle Paul asked God to remove those “thorns in his side” that he was dealing with, but God said that his grace was sufficient.

We are to bless those that curse us and pray for those that spitefully use us. We cannot harbor any offense, or eventually we will have a hardened heart. When that happens, it takes breaking our heart for God to get through to us.

God wants us to live a life of victory, that comes through praise, and worship. The next time you have opportunity to be upset, take a deep breath, know that God will get you through the problem and know that your praise defeats Satan's attacks that come. When things don't bother us anymore then we know that the flesh part of us has been crucified. Very few get to that point, but we must all aim for it! I'm believing for you to reach that point!