

DAILY READING: COURAGE IN TRIALS

My attitude is one of courageous joy in and through life's trials. When trials come my way I will not resent them as intruders, rather I will welcome them as friends. I choose this response because it is a healthier alternative than anger or blame. I know that God will use every trial to help me grow. My attitude in every circumstance and trial is one of courageous joy because my life is centered on God and His presence: God-oriented rather than event-oriented.

Courageous joy is not based on an emotion; I am not pretending to be happy and heroic or putting on a good front. Courageous joy is honest, allowing me to admit hurt and recognize suffering, even willingly participate in it. It is contentment that comes from realizing nothing can separate me from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. I am choosing to live above my feelings without denying them. With the courageous joy of the Lord I have a deep sense of well-being, even in times of sorrow, tears, anger or pain.

Trials may be difficult situations that test my faith: persecution, a complicated moral choice or a tragedy. The journey of life is full of trials and to merely endure them is not enough. I cannot waste my trials. They are the process God uses to develop maturity in me. I will neither avoid trials that come my way nor will I look for them to practice endurance.

Once a trial is upon me I will follow the example of Jesus, "Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne" (Hebrews 12:2). Without the proper attitude, all trials have the potential to steal my joy and my strength; therefore, my attitude is one of courageous joy in and through life's trials.

ACTIVITY:
What is your response to trials? Complaining or joy? Take a trial you are going through and reframe it as a growth opportunity. Ask what you could be learning from it and breathe a prayer of thanksgiving for the changes that trial is producing in you.

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DAILY STUDY: COURAGE IN TRIALS

DAY 1: Fine Tuned Through Trials - 1 Peter 1:3-7 (Page 934);
Genesis 22:1-12 (Page 17)

DAY 2: Comfort that Abounds - 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 (Page 882);
Psalm 71:20-24 (Page 445)

DAY 3: Restoration After Hardships - 2 Corinthians 4:7-18
(Page 884); Psalm 66:10-12 (Page 442)

DAY 4: Firm Foundations Remain - Luke 6:47-49 (Page 787);
Proverbs 10:25 (Page 487)

DAY 5: God Stays and Sustains - Mark 4:35-41 (Page 764);
Deuteronomy 31:6 (Page 163)

DAY 6: Do not let Your Heart be Troubled - John 14:1-7
(Page 823); Psalm 116:3-9 (Page 467)

DAY 7: Courage and Hope -
John 16:31-33 (Page 825);
Romans 5:3-5 (Page 860);
Proverbs 29:25 (Page 502).
Read the Daily Reading
once again and highlight
things that stand out.
Answer the three Life
Transformation Questions
for growth in this area.
Take time to learn the
memory verse.

MEMORY VERSE:

Hebrews 12:2
"We do this by keeping our
eyes on Jesus, the champion
who initiates and perfects our
faith. Because of the joy
awaiting Him, He endured the
cross, disregarding its shame.
Now He is seated in the place
of honor beside God's throne."
Hebrews 12:2

LIFE TRANSFORMATION QUESTIONS:

1. As you read the Daily Reading, what stood out and why?
2. What action will you take to apply this truth? Be specific.
3. What areas of your life will benefit from this action? How and why?

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