

**Define trials and tests in the abstract.**

**What are some of the common thoughts or conclusions that Christians make when they or someone they love is facing trials- especially over long periods of time?**

**What kinds of trials and tests does God bring?**

1. Leading us on a difficult path. Deuteronomy 8:1-5

The Lord will place us on difficult paths in life to teach us to trust him and his provision.

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2. Choices. 1 Kings 3:5-9

The Lord will place before us opportunities that may be between something good or bad, or good-better-best. These choices we make will reveal where we are at spiritually and what our true priorities are in real life.

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3. Impossible tasks & Impossible odds. John 6:1-9; Judges 7:1-25

When faced with impossible situations, God is testing us to see if our faith truly does go beyond what we can see. Do we really believe God does miracles or is our thinking limited to mathematics? Does the work of God in our lives, our family our church, our business etc. really have a place in our thinking, or we do go on mere instinct and human reasoning?

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4. Suffering. Acts 16:22-28

In the midst of suffering will we continue to pray and praise God? Will our thoughts go beyond us to the eternal purpose of God?

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5. Perceived Delays in His Provision. Philippians 4:10-13; Psalm 13

While we wait, will we abide in the strength that Christ provides? Or will we take matters into our own hands?

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Wednesday Night Bible Study  
Plymouth First Baptist Church  
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6. Change in Circumstances and Seasons. Daniel 6; Ecclesiastes 3  
When what we are comfortable with is taken away from us by the will of God, Will we continue to trust in God who governs over all the seasons of our lives and this world?

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7. Persecution. Matthew 5:11-12  
Will we praise God in the midst of unjustified treatment?

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8. Praise. Proverbs 27:21; Isaiah 42:8  
Will we refuse to take praise and glory that belongs to God when the people around us are clapping?

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**Purpose of Trials for the Christian:** (not an exhaustive list)

**God always has purpose in the trials of His children.**

1. Maturity in the Believer James 1:1-4, 2 Timothy 4:1-5

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2. Opportunities to serve. 2 Corinthians 7:1-7

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3. Closer Fellowship with Jesus and Other Christians. Philippians 3:10; 2 Corinthians 1:1-7

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4. Opportunities to witness of Christ and His Power. Acts 16:29-34

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5. That God might be praised. 1 Peter 5:6-11

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