**Practicing Living by God’s life in a Troubled World (Scripture Verses are from the NIV unless otherwise noted)**

**5) The world with its troubles and trials, our sinful nature, and Satanic forces can be a**

**hindrance or catalyst for God effectively living through us.**

**Section 5A The troubles and trials of life:**

**Jesus told us that in this life we will have many troubles but Jesus who lives in us will be the source of our victory.**

***John 16:33*** *I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

***1 John 4:4*** *You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*

**The Apostle Paul makes an astounding statement that the reason for a life threatening trial was so he would not trust in himself.**

***2 Corinthians 1:9-11*** *We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%201:%208-11&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-28809a" \o "See footnote a)] about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself.****9Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. 10****He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us,****11****as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.*

**We are encouraged to continue depending on God as our power source as we pursue the high calling of a Godly, loving life in the midst of the overwhelming trials and troubles. God often allows us to experience trouble in order for us to be brought to the end of our own resources and ability so that we might rely on Him. God in the midst of our troubles wants to demonstrate His love, strength, power and faithfulness to help us in order to develop our trust and reliance on Him as our life source.**

**Additionally, as we allow God to work through us by interceding for others with our prayers and by God directed good works, we can help others in their time of need.**

**The suffering and difficulties we often experience can be used by God to bring comfort to the body of Christ in a unique way and may define a special calling for our life. Also, our testing in trials can lead to a testimony to the non-believing world.**

**2 Corinthians 1:3-7** *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,****4****who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.****5****For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.****6****If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer.****7****And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.*

**It is amazing to think that God can use us to be His helper but equally amazing to realize that God is willing to help us in all our troubles.**

***Hebrews 13:6*** *…The Lord is my helper…*

***Psalm 146:5*** *Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help,  
Whose hope is in the Lord his God, NKJV*

***Psalm 121:1-2***I *lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from?* ***2****My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.*

***Psalm 124:8*** *Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.*

***Psalm 34:17-19*****17***The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.****18****The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.* ***19****The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all;*

**If we experience any kind of trouble we are to pray. God even helps us to pray.**

*1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing KJV*

*Philippians 4: 6-7* **6***Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.****7****And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Romans 8:26* **26***In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.*

**Many times our troubles, temptations and trials have no human solution.**

***Psalm 108:12-13*****12***Give us aid against the enemy, for human help is worthless.* ***13****With God we will gain the victory,  and he will trample down our enemies*

**Nothing is impossible for God.**

**Matthew 19:26** Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

**God is interested in helping us in all our troubles big and small for all aspects of life.**

***Psalm 62:8*** *Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.*

***Psalm 46:1*** *God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.*

***Psalm 32:8*** *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
 I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.*

**God will not withhold any truly good thing and will even give us the desires of our heart to those to fear Him.**

***Psalm 84:11-12*** *For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor;  
no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless. Lord Almighty,  blessed is the one who trusts in you.*

***Psalm 37:4-5*** *Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

*5Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this:*

**God promises to accomplish all that concerns us big or small.**

***Psalm 57:1-2*** *Be gracious to me, O God, be gracious to me,  
For my soul takes refuge in You; And in the shadow of Your wings I*

*will take refuge Until destruction passes by.* ***2****I will cry to God Most High,  
To God who accomplishes all things for me*.

**Even if we have made a mess out of things God is willing to unravel our situation. Often, we create our own problems by poor decisions because we did not listen to God. Yet, God will still help us if we cry out to Him.**

***Psalm 107:9-13*****10***Some sat in darkness, in utter darkness,  prisoners suffering in iron chains,* ***11****because they rebelled against God’s commands  and despised the plans of the Most High.****12****So he subjected them to bitter labor;  they stumbled, and there was no one to help.* ***13****Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress*

***Psalm 107:17-22******17****Some became fools through their rebellious ways and suffered affliction because of their iniquities.* *They loathed all food and drew near the gates of death.* ***19****Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.* ***20****He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.* ***21****Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind.* ***22****Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy.*

**The difficulties, troubles, temptations of this life are often far beyond our own ability to handle in a Godly, loving manner. Thankfully, God is willing to help us in our weakness since He lives in us and knows our struggles.**

***Jesus said:***

***2 Corinthians 12:9***My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.

***Matthew 26:41****…The spirit is willing the flesh is weak.*

***John 6:63*** *The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John6:63&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26321a)*] and life.*

**Praise and thanksgiving for God’s help in advance creates an atmosphere for God’s deliverance in our difficulties. The story of King Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 20 illustrates this principle. Israel was under attack by overwhelmingly superior forces but the king and the people cried to the Lord for His help.**

*2 Chronicles 2:15 This is what the Lord says to you: ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s.*

*2 Chronicles 20:21-22 King Jehoshaphat’s response* ***21****After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Chronicles%2020:21-22&version=NIV#fen-NIV-11609a)*] holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: “Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever*.” ***22****As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.*

**The below verse James 1:1 makes a little more sense since in every situation God is willing and able to help us. We can rejoice in God’s faithfulness to help us endure or deliver us in the trouble we face. Also, we are able to draw off of His indwelling presence to live through us in our weakness to cope with the pressures of life in order to bring us to maturity.**

***James 1:2-3******2****Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%201:1-4&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30269a)*] whenever you face trials of many kinds,****3****because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.****4****Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

**Trusting God in the midst of our trial can build an eternal weight of glory.**

*Romans 8:18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.*

**Our troubles and trials can help us focus on and remind us of our future of spending an eternity with Jesus.**

**John 14:1** *Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John14:1-3&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26670a)*]; believe also in me.****2****My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?****3****And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*

**Life’s troubles are bad enough to derail us from allowing God to work through us but we also must contend with an enemy within us ---our sinful nature and additionally demonic forces waging war against us. We have been designed to live by the power of the Holy Spirit in order that Jesus’s life may be exalted in us in the midst of great opposition.**