

## Outside Your Understanding

Just what is a trial, and why is it such a dreaded thing? We've all come to associate trials and tribulations with the devil himself, and because of this, many of us don't allow ourselves to hear the lessons that come with opposition. Instead, we focus on the problem, pray for a solution and we wait for brighter days. Of course, there's a problem with this mentality, and that problem is: It keeps you from hearing the message in the lesson.

Many of us approach the altar of God in prayer each day, and we ask God to give us more wisdom, knowledge and understanding, and this is great. Howbeit, most believers don't know what they are asking for when they ask for more wisdom, knowledge, understanding or for a change in their lives. That's because we think that asking God for something is a simple process of offering up a prayer and waiting for an answer when this isn't true. Anytime you pray for something, a conception must take place. Think of it this way: Your prayer is the egg, but it takes faith to fertilize that egg. Additionally, faith without works is dead, so you have to push out the baby once it's due, but in the meantime, you have to understand that even though the answer to your prayers is “yea” and “amen”, your reception of that prayer has a period of gestation. Again, the prayer is already answered, but you have to take God's “yea” and “amen” from the realm of the spirit, and bring it into the natural realm. How do you do this?

- **You must have faith.** Faith isn't just a religious word that you have to learn; faith is believing God even when it makes no sense to believe God. But you can't get faith without the Word; therefore, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.
- **Do not faint.** Anytime you ask and believe God for something, you become spiritually pregnant without whatever you've asked Him for if it's in HIS will. It goes without saying, however, that when the enemy sees that you are pregnant, he'll assign demons to cause you to miscarry or abort your blessings. They do this by causing you to doubt God, operate in fear, enter strife with others, get into sin or speak against what you've prayed for. To get you to abort or miscarry your blessings, demons like to engage in warfare with you through your friends, family, co-workers, etc. But when the trials of life are beating upon you, that's not the time to faint; that's actually the time to rejoice because the enemy wouldn't oppose you if you weren't a threat to him. You have to refuse to faint while enduring the most fierce of storms.
- **Receive your blessing.** This is actually the hardest part since most people don't know how to receive what they haven't seen. That's why you have to come outside of your flesh to believe God (faith), and you have to persevere through the challenges that confront you as you are believing God. But you receive your blessing by simply having believed God, made room for the answer to your prayers and, when the storms of life press upon you, understand that this is the right time to push. Oftentimes, what you think are storms are actually labor pains. If the doctor told you that you were pregnant (women) or that your wife was pregnant (men), you'd prepare for your newborn child, even though you can't see the child yet. You have faith that you are pregnant, and as the months pass you by, the evidence of that pregnancy begins to

manifest in the form of a swollen belly. Nevertheless, you can't see that child, but you still believe that the child is in existence. If you believed that you were pregnant (women) or that your wife is pregnant (men), you would go out and prepare for the new baby. You'd buy clothes, a crib, bottles, etc. In doing this, you are preparing to receive your blessing. The same goes with your prayers. If you have asked God for something, you must prepare to receive it if you actually believe God for it. For example, if you asked God for a new house, you should have been out buying the things you'll need for your new home, and not just window shopping.

Anything you're having to ask God for is something that is visible to you, but it's outside of your understanding. This means that you understand just what it is that you want, but you do not understand what you need to do to receive it. Asking God for something is the same as asking God for understanding. You're simply saying that there is something you want that is outside of your understanding, and you want God to give you the wisdom, knowledge and understanding to receive the answer to your prayers.

After you've asked the Lord to give something to you, HE will take you into the depths of understanding, and this is the time that you may find yourself in what appears to be a trial. In truth, you aren't being attacked; you're being positioned to receive God's "yea" and "amen".

Imagine that you had a teenage boy, and he asked you for a new car. You told him to maintain his good grades, and once he graduated high school, you'd get him that new car. While still in school, however, you noticed that he's spending too much time on the phone talking with girls, and you worried that this may affect his grades. All the same, being the loving parent that you are, you were actually excited about the idea of giving him a new car, and you didn't want him to mess it up. So, you confronted him about his obsession with the opposite sex, and you reminded him of what was at stake for him. After noticing that he was not taking your words seriously, you decided to take his cell phone away, limit his associations with females, and give him a curfew. Now, in his eyes, you are attacking him, and he's going through a storm. This may seem like the end of the world for him, but in truth, you simply want him to do well in school, and you want to give him that new car he asked for.

God does us the same way. Sometimes, we have things, people and mindsets attached to us that are prohibiting us from receiving the blessings that God has for us. Because of this, God will often allow us to go through trials and tribulations because anything that opposes our "right now" understanding will always appear to be too much for us. This causes us to seek God truthfully and not religiously. When we seek the Lord for answers, we open ourselves up to hear from Him, whereas, if we hadn't been opposed, we will closed ourselves into our own understandings and former mindsets. We can't receive new blessings with old mentalities. This means that God has to bring you outside of your understanding in order for you to receive whatever it is or was that you have been praying for.

If you're asking God for a new car, please know that if you understood how to get that car on your own, you wouldn't be asking God for it. Because you don't understand how to receive that new car, you would go to God, but if you don't know how HE works, you'll approach Him religiously; meaning, you'll come to Him with many words and little faith. But if you know Him well, you'll know that the car is already yours after you've asked and believed Him for it, but now, you're having to wait for Him to move you into the understanding that you'll need to get the car. All too often, people look for surprise money, and that's okay if God sends it that way, but what you ought to be looking for is the wisdom in each situation. Anytime you find yourself being opposed by a storm, you shouldn't look at the storm; instead, you should study the storm and look for understanding in it. Remember, opposition means something is opposing your position. If the enemy is opposing you, the way to shut him down is by opposing his position, or in other words, exercising your God-given authority over him.

You can achieve and receive so much more in life without having to endure the storms of trials if you'd only seek understanding outside of the trials and the oppositions. In other words, seek God each and every day of your life. If you only come to Him when a storm is raging against your life or whenever you want something from Him, you are going to find yourself having more storms than a person who seeks God without motives. Seek understanding before you want something; that way, you won't have to keep going through the seasons designed to get you to understanding just to receive the manifestation of answers to your prayers. Please know that somethings are outside of your understanding, and that's okay. The goal is to get the understanding you'll need so you can reach all of the “yea” and “amens” that Jesus Christ has afforded you.