

When Tough Times Come

An old saying is, "When it rains, it pours!" It's not just a tag line on the salt container, it means when things go wrong, they *really* go wrong. All of us can remember times when bad news was followed by terrible news. It's not true that bad things come in sets of three, but sometimes it sure seems like it. In Job's life, for example, bad things came hard and fast into the life of a righteous servant of God.

Whether is COVID 19, a crashing economy or a quarantine lockdown, modern life is fraught with real challenges. But the problem itself is not modern. Ever since the Garden of Eden mankind has faced hardships and struggles. No one is exempt, regardless of time in history or place on earth. The real question is whether or not we have God on our side when tough times topple our peace.

Job learned that lesson in chapters 40-42. No matter what happens or how bad it gets, God is still God, He still loves us and we are still His kids on our way home. Peter addresses the reality of tough times in I Peter 4:12, 13:

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though *something* strange were happening to you, but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that at the revelation of His glory you may also rejoice and be overjoyed.

Did you catch it? Don't be shocked when tough times knock on life's door. It's **not** a strange thing, just life on planet earth. After all, this is earth and not heaven. I'm convinced that most Americans are spoiled, I certainly am. We've had it so good for so long that we it's hard not to be surprised when things go south.

Remember who you are: God's kid! Remember this is earth and not heaven. Remember that when we stay in His word we should not be surprised by any fiery ordeal this world can throw at us. Job said that even if he loses his life, he will still trust God, Job 13:15.

Hang in there, don't give up, don't become cynical, don't take on the woes of the world and never, ever let tough times cause you to stop trusting God!

Ray Wallace