

It's What We Know That Gets Us Through Trials

Today's Scripture: **1 Thess 2:17-3:10**

1. **What are the trials that can shake a persons faith?**
2. **What are the truths that stabilize a persons faith?**

1. LOVE

2. TRUTH

*There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you have to endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world. **1Peter 1:6-7 NLT***

*They made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. **Isaiah 53:9-10***

He does not enjoy hurting people or causing them sorrow.

Lamentations 3:33 NLT

When God looks at a painful or wicked event through his narrow lens, he sees tragedy or the sin for what it is in itself and he is angered or grieved...but when God looks at a painful or wicked event through his wide angle lens, he sees the tragedy of the sin in relation to everything

leading up to it and everything flowing from it. He sees it in all the connections and effects that form a pattern or mosaic stretching into eternity. This mosaic in all its parts—good and evil—brings him delight.

John Piper *Desiring God* p.29

Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand. **Proverbs 19:21**

3. **POWER**

The expression “before our God” reflects Paul’s conviction that he, along with the Thessalonians, lives in the presence of God...through his present prayers and thanksgiving and rejoicing. This consciousness of the divine presence explains why Paul does not direct his thanksgiving to the Thessalonians themselves but to God who is the ultimate reason for the good report about the church. **Jeffrey A.D. Weima** 1-2 Thessalonians p.227

Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat.

...but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. **Luke 22:31-32**