

1 Peter 4:12-13

Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

God does not allow trials in your life so that you can make everyone around you miserable. But so that everyone around you can see God's strength in you.

I remember years ago when we were kids, and I got in trouble (I don't remember what for) and I was put on restriction for a month. So for the next month I was not allowed to go roller skating, which was something I loved to do and I did it several times a week as a kid; Therefore, for me, it was a major punishment. But still, I took my punishment and accepted it.

But I also remember when my sister got in trouble and was put on restriction for a week, and for that week she made everyone miserable, complaining and asking us to tell our mom to stop the restriction. She got what she deserved, just like I did, but she chose to make everyone else miserable just because she was.

Yet how many Christians do the same thing. They are going through some type of trial, and they let everyone about it, and how miserable they are while they are going through it. They flood their Social Media with post after post and it gets to the point that people see them and turn the other way, because they just don't want to hear it again.

Now, don't get me wrong, because when we go through trials, it's ok to tell other Christians (but not everyone you know) so that they can pray for you and even give you wise counsel. But you must remember that the Lord is allowing you to go through this to strengthen you and help you to grow as a Christian.

You must also realize that you are not the only one to go through trials. ***“do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you.”*** It's just a lot of times you don't know about it, because Christians know and depend on the Lord to get them through whatever it is they are going through, so you usually don't hear about it.

So, if you really want to tell others about this fiery trial, tell them afterwards how the Lord walked with you through the trial.

Oh, you want an example?

† ***Daniel 3:12 There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid***

due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up."

I think we all know the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego being thrown into the fiery furnace for not bowing down to a false idol. But I want you to notice what they didn't say. Lets look at their response and see if you know what I am talking about.

† ***Daniel 3:16-18 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."***

They simply let the person that was putting them through the trial, king Nebuchadnezzar, that they served God and God alone. But what they didn't say is, "Hey, all you Jews, look what the king is doing to us. Come on, stand up and fight for us." Because if they did, they would be bringing others into their fiery trial, and the Jews may have heard them and even helped them, which would have ended with many Jews being killed because there would be a war or battle just to defend these three men. But instead, they stood strong in their relationship with God and did not need others to defend them, only God. And the results was that God got all the glory as He got them through the fiery trial, and no one else got hurt, and the other Jews saw how they too should be serving God.

† ***Daniel 3:24-25 & 29-30 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."***

Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this." Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.

So yeah, we all go through trials, but in the end, who is getting the glory for getting you through it? You and all your whining to others to the point that they bail you out? Or God, because you depended on Him to get you through the trial?

† ***Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.***

† **Psalm 18:32** It is God who arms me with strength, And makes my way perfect.

† **Psalm 109:21** *But You, O GOD the Lord, Deal with me for Your name's sake; Because Your mercy is good, deliver me.*