

Spirit & Truth Fellowship International/Christian Educational Services
2005 August/September Tape of the Month

“Building Faith and Godliness Through Adversity”

A Test on Adversity

- a) If one is really walking with God, life should be easy, and things should come together without a lot of stress and strain. Hassles, adversity, and opposition indicate that God is not in it.

Always True, Sometimes True, False

- b) Persistent adversity in our lives indicates a lack of faith, because as sons of God we have the power to overcome adversity and the Adversary. We are superconquerors over every situation, meaning that we can and should exercise a victorious faith over negative circumstances because it is God’s will that we not suffer through adversity and He wants us to demonstrate His power.

Always True, Sometimes True, False

- c) That adversity is caused by one’s personal sinfulness, and brought on because sin and idolatry have weakened our defenses. If we are really loving and obeying God as we should we would be spared adversity and manifest victory.

Always True, Sometimes True, False

- d) (1) That adversity, temptation, or suffering is specifically, personally, and intentionally sent by God to discipline us, to purify our motives, or to prepare us for service to Him.
(2) God is in complete control of everything that happens to us, good and bad, and that nothing happens unless it first goes across His desk for approval.

Always True, Sometimes True, False

- e) Adversity is the direct result of demonic oppression or the attack of the Devil. Adversity validates that we are on the right path and the enemy is trying to discourage us.

Always True, Sometimes True, False

- f) Adversity is the necessary consequence of sin’s entrance into the world, and affects believers and unbelievers alike. Everyone will face adversity, which may or may not be related to our choices or actions, or that God or the Devil are involved. Learning to handle adversity well will result in purification of our motives, strengthening of our faith in God’s deliverance, and free us from the bondage of needing to be comfortable, among other things.

Always True, Sometimes True, False

Spirit & Truth Fellowship International/Christian Educational Services
2005 August/September Tape of the Month

“Building Faith and Godliness Through Adversity”

Identifying Sources of Adversity

There are basically four categories: the fallen world, our choices, the Devil, and God/Jesus Christ.

1. The fallen world—circumstances that are beyond our control or choice. These are personal and environmental. That is, things that pertain to ourselves, and things that pertain to the environment and circumstances we are in.
 - a. Our personal circumstances
 - i. Accidents of birth; genetic package; nearsightedness, baldness, etc.
 - ii. Family of origin
 - iii. Nationality, language, religion, and culture
 - iv. Physical features, skin color, etc.
 - v. Our temperament and personality types; will inevitably rub some people wrong
 - vi. Intelligence and giftings
 - vii. Our gender, and related societal expectations
 - viii. Financial situation of our family
 - b. Environmental circumstances (affect all)
 - i. Adverse weather conditions
 - ii. Economy
 - iii. Accidents
 - iv. Pestilence and epidemics
 - v. Pollutants and toxins
 - vi. Crime
 - vii. Politics and government, laws, and public policies
 - viii. War
2. Consequences of our own choices and sins, intended or unintended
 - a. Personal choices (not inherently sinful or righteous). God lets us learn from the consequences of our choices, whether good or not so good. God gives us the freedom to make choices and determine what we want to do with our lives.
 - i. Friends and associations
 - ii. School and education
 - iii. Military service
 - iv. Career, job, income
 - v. Spare time choices, time wasters
 - vi. Faith, religion
 - vii. Growing pains in the church (Acts 6:1-7)

Spirit & Truth Fellowship International/Christian Educational Services
2005 August/September Tape of the Month

“Building Faith and Godliness Through Adversity”

- b. Personal sins
 - i. Seasons of reproof, correction, training in righteousness and holiness; the Lord’s discipline
 - ii. Letting us learn from our mistakes; life lessons
 - iii. Enduring the long term consequences of our actions that the Lord cannot eliminate—like our responsibility to support a child born out of wedlock

- 3. God
 - a. Tests us (Matt. 4:1; John 6:6; 1 Thess. 2:4)
 - b. Reproves us (Heb. 12:5; Gal. 2:11ff); publicly if we are a leader (1 Tim. 5:20)
 - c. Rewards us with more work (1 Cor. 16:9)
 - d. Withholds mercy from us when appropriate and lets us have the consequences that we deserve (Heb. 10:28; Rom. 9:15 and 18; 1 Tim. 1:13 and 16)
 - e. Isolates us when we are divisive, persistently immoral, or rebellious (Rom. 16:17; 1 Cor. 5:5; 2 Thess. 3:14)
 - f. Leads us into the fellowship of Christ’s sufferings (John 15:20; Phil. 3:10; Col. 1:24)
 - g. Prunes us (John 15:2)--seasons of removing dependencies, breaking and reforming habits
 - h. Changes the rules on us (Rom. 10:2; Gal. 2:16)
 - i. Will punish evildoers (2 Thess. 1:6; 2 Tim. 4:14)
 - j. Judges nations and cities (Gen. 13:13; Exod. 7:4 and 5; Jon. 1:2; Matt. 11:21-24; Titus 1:12, et al.)
 - k. Lets our idols fail (Ezek. 6:4-6, et al.)

- 3a. Jesus Christ
 - l. Brings division among people who must decide who he is (Luke 12:51)
 - m. Reproves us (Matt. 16:23)
 - n. Challenges us (John 6:54-61)
 - o. Gives the holy spirit that reproves the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:8)

- 4. The Devil, demons, and the spiritual battle
 - a. The thief comes not but for to steal, kill, destroy (John 10:10a-KJV)
 - b. The Devil seeks whom he may devour (1 Pet. 5:8)
 - c. The fiery darts of the wicked one (Eph. 6:16-KJV)
 - d. Accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:10)
 - e. Creates conflict and chaos

Spirit & Truth Fellowship International/Christian Educational Services
2005 August/September Tape of the Month

“Building Faith and Godliness Through Adversity”

“Answer Key” to the Test on Adversity

We believe the following statements to be always true:

- a). If one is walking with God sometimes life is easy, and things come together without a lot of stress and strain. We experience His gracious provision as undeserved favor on our lives. Other times we can be in the will of God and all hell is breaking loose around us. We cannot judge the righteousness of our spiritual path by the circumstances that attend us. We must discern the source of our adversity and respond appropriately.
- b). Persistent adversity in itself neither indicates the presence or absence of faith. Scripture warns us that afflictions of various kinds await those committed to a righteous path, but that God will deliver them from all their troubles. Paul’s example shows us that we are “superconquerors” through Christ whether it looks like it or not in this life, because of the eternal rewards that will come to us for our faithfulness to stand in the face of adversity.
- c). Adversity is sometimes caused by our personal sinfulness, and brought on because sin and idolatry have weakened our defenses. God just lets us reap what our actions have sown. When we suspect that this may be the case, we quickly repent and seek God’s forgiveness and restoration of fellowship with a renewed expectation of deliverance.
- d). That some specific kinds of adversity or suffering is allowed by God because He can use it for His purposes: to discipline us and fashion our character in godliness. This in no way impinges upon our faith in God’s goodness, because He strengthens us in adversity, and we can go to Him for comfort and deliverance in times of trouble. This too is an occasion for discernment, and must pass the “three prayers test.” God is not in absolute control of our adverse circumstances because He is righteous and must deal with sin and the Devil in a righteous, long-term manner.
- e). Some adversity is the direct result of demonic oppression or the indirect attack of Satan, and may or may not mean that we are on the right spiritual path. We steadfastly resist these assaults by being strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. We fight a spiritual fight using the name of Jesus Christ and the sword of the spirit, the Word of God. We always keep in mind that the Enemy is interested only in hindering the purposes of God, and otherwise has no interest in us personally.
- f). Adversity is the necessary consequence of sin’s entrance into the world, and affects believers and unbelievers alike. Everyone will face adversity in this life, which may or may not be related to our choices or actions, or that God or the Devil are involved. Learning to handle adversity well will result in purification of our motives, strengthening of our faith in God’s deliverance, and free us from the bondage of needing to be comfortable, among other things.

Spirit & Truth Fellowship International/Christian Educational Services
2005 August/September Tape of the Month

“Building Faith and Godliness Through Adversity”

Further Study Material

For online articles, visit www.TruthOrTradition.com Topics: Becoming Like Christ, Spiritual Battle, Foreknowledge of God, and Becoming Like Christ.

Some specific articles that may be of interest on www.TruthOrTradition.com are:

Topic/Article: God’s Foreknowledge - “Is Everything That Happens God’s Will?”

Topic/Article: FAQ - “To Grieve or not to Grieve?”

Topic/Article: Becoming Like Christ (Christ-like) - “The Art of Forgiveness”

We recommend reading our books: *Don’t Blame God* and *The Christian’s Hope*. You can read key sections / chapters online at: www.TruthOrTradition.com Topic: Recommended Reading.

90 minute audio teaching tapes - \$4.00 plus S&H

(Mar/Apr 94) A Biblical View Of Our Emotions #1-100018

Many Christians are taught to ignore their emotions, or else categorize them as either "good" or "bad." From the biblical perspective, however, all emotions are valid, but they must be evaluated on the basis of their intensity, duration and appropriateness. Where "religion" often leads people into bondage, denial and inappropriate emotional responses, the truth of God's Word sets us free to follow the example of our Savior and honestly and openly experience the full range of godly human emotions. This teaching will help you face your feelings and still govern your actions by the Word of God, which is exactly how Jesus Christ lived.

(Jul/Aug 94) The Art Of Forgiveness #1-100020

This teaching contains information you can utilize for the rest of your life, because we live in a fallen world where sin plagues even the most mature Christian. Biblical forgiveness (not compromise) is an integral part of true love, and it is indispensable for spiritual, mental, emotional and physical health. You will see from Scripture that the key to you extending forgiveness (and thus the heart of Christ) to someone who wrongs you is your understanding of God's forgiveness of you in Christ. The teaching shows what forgiveness is, why we need to learn this art and how to practice it.

Spirit & Truth Fellowship International/Christian Educational Services
2005 August/September Tape of the Month

“Building Faith and Godliness Through Adversity”

(Jul/Aug 96) The Apostle Paul: Mindset, Martyrdom, And Mercy #1-100032

This teaching is about how God picked Saul, the "Jew of Jews," to be the apostle (Paul) to the Gentiles. It shows how it took God about 25 years to get through Paul's Jewish skull the complete revelation of "the Mystery" as it is set forth in the book of Ephesians. During that time, Paul's zeal for his own people, Israel, led him into a piety that looked good but was contrary to the will of God. The teaching points out what Paul's going to Jerusalem may have cost the early Church. It then shows how God's grace and mercy abounded in Paul's life, and how after his repentance God blessed him in prison with the revelation of Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and the pastoral epistles.

(May/Jun 99) Resisting Idolatry, Temptation and Deception #1-100049

This tape is a very practical analysis of how idolatry is present in the life of a believer whenever we love and trust anything more than God. It also looks at the temptations of Jesus in terms of the basic ways Satan tempts all of us, and how to counteract each type of deception. His first step is to define our need for us, instead of our allowing the Word of God to do so. The second way is to create urgency for the need to be met immediately, instead of our waiting upon the Lord and worshipping Him. The third way is to tell us that that we can get away with disobeying God without consequences and lure us into unwise actions. But, armed against the lure of these deceptions, we are able to glorify God.

(Sep/Oct 99) Discerning Good and Evil #1-100051

This vitally important subject is given a comprehensive treatment, highlighting the believer's call to "hate evil" and "overcome evil with good." The believer's responsibility to educate his own conscience according to biblical ethical standards is clearly defined and shown to provide the basis for discerning both good and evil. The characteristics of evil and evil people are then gleaned from Scriptures, and these are contrasted to goodness and good people. In the process, it becomes apparent that evil stands in opposition to all that God is. This tape will empower the Christian believer to identify and root out the vestiges and influences of evil thinking and behavior so a more intimate relationship with the holy God and His righteous Son can result.

(Jan/Feb 01) Be Transformed! The Promise of a New Life in Christ #1-100059

This teaching looks at both the promises and commandments in the New Testament that relate to becoming transformed from the "old man," which is corrupt, to the "new man," which is "created in righteousness and true holiness." Eight distinct stages in this transformation process are identified, and compared to the stages in the biological transformation of a caterpillar to a butterfly. The importance of the mind in this process is discussed, specifically the need to be conscious of our feelings, thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors. This teaching also investigates the biblical relationship between God's promises and His commandments, and shows that obedient behavior reveals true faith in God's promises.

Spirit & Truth Fellowship International/Christian Educational Services
2005 August/September Tape of the Month

“Building Faith and Godliness Through Adversity”

80 minute audio teaching tapes (\$4.00) or CDs (\$6.00) plus S&H

(Jul & Aug 02) Breaking Through to Godliness #1-10071TP or #1-10071CD (July 02) and #1-10072TP or #1-10072CD (August 02)

This two-part teaching examines the vast difference between religion and godliness, as revealed by the entire scope of the Bible. By looking at many biblical accounts of both religious and godly attitudes, godliness is seen to be a true, vital, and transformational relationship with God and Jesus Christ. Religion, on the other hand, concerns the outward works of faith, such as prayer, prophecy, Bible study, evangelism, church-building, etc.

In practicing these things, we may look good, be "right," and be busy doing the right things (we think), telling ourselves that we are really pursuing God. But we may actually be "in the flesh," with our religious beliefs and practices masking impure motives and desires of an unclean heart. To become godly, we must learn to develop an intense commitment to truth in the inward parts, as David spoke in Psalm 51:1-9. This teaching will encourage personal transformation in Christ by showing how to recognize and break through religious postures of heart. By Mark Graeser.

(Oct 02) Transformation: Becoming Like Christ #1-10074TP or #1-10074CD

The Bible says that Christians are to be "imitators of God," and live a life of love as Jesus Christ did. Doing so requires us to get rid of anger, bitterness, and evil communication, and to purify our hearts. As many of us have learned, this is much easier said than done. How exactly are we to do it?

This teaching shows what the Word of God says about how to be transformed and become like Jesus Christ. The lynchpin of the teaching is that, as the Body of Christ, Christians are actually participating in the process of redemption, which is still ongoing. The world is still in a fallen state, in need of redemption, and the followers of Christ are now suffering in his stead in the outworking of this redemptive process.

(Mar 03) Healthily Processing Anger #1-10079TP or #1-10079CD

This teaching is about how to deal with our own anger in a healthy manner. It starts by taking a look at the myth that anger is always a sin. Biblically, there are two kinds of anger -- justified (like that which God and Jesus Christ display) and unjustified (like what the Pharisees displayed). Anger is simply an emotion, but how we choose to relate to it determines whether or not it is sin. Ephesians 4:26 is examined to see the "how" of properly processing anger and channeling it into constructive behavior. The teaching also looks at the physiological, psychological, and spiritual prices we pay when we inappropriately deal with our anger. It concludes by showing godly strategies to deal with anger, focusing on Jesus' example of forgiveness ("Father, forgive them for they know not what they do"). By Karen Theisen

Spirit & Truth Fellowship International/Christian Educational Services
2005 August/September Tape of the Month

“Building Faith and Godliness Through Adversity”

(Jul 03) Deliverance from People Pleasing #1-10083TP or #1-10083CD

Human beings employ a wide variety of approval-seeking behavior. Seeking primary approval from anyone other than their Creator prevents Christians from realizing their full potential as children of God. This teaching challenges each believer to examine himself in order to uproot "men-pleasing" as an unwanted weed in the garden of his heart. After considering who we seek approval from and what people-pleasing behaviors look like, this teaching suggests a number of fleshly motives and looks at biblical records illustrating both people-pleasing and God-pleasing individuals. Lastly, it takes a biblical look at when it is appropriate to seek to please people, such as in marriage and evangelism.

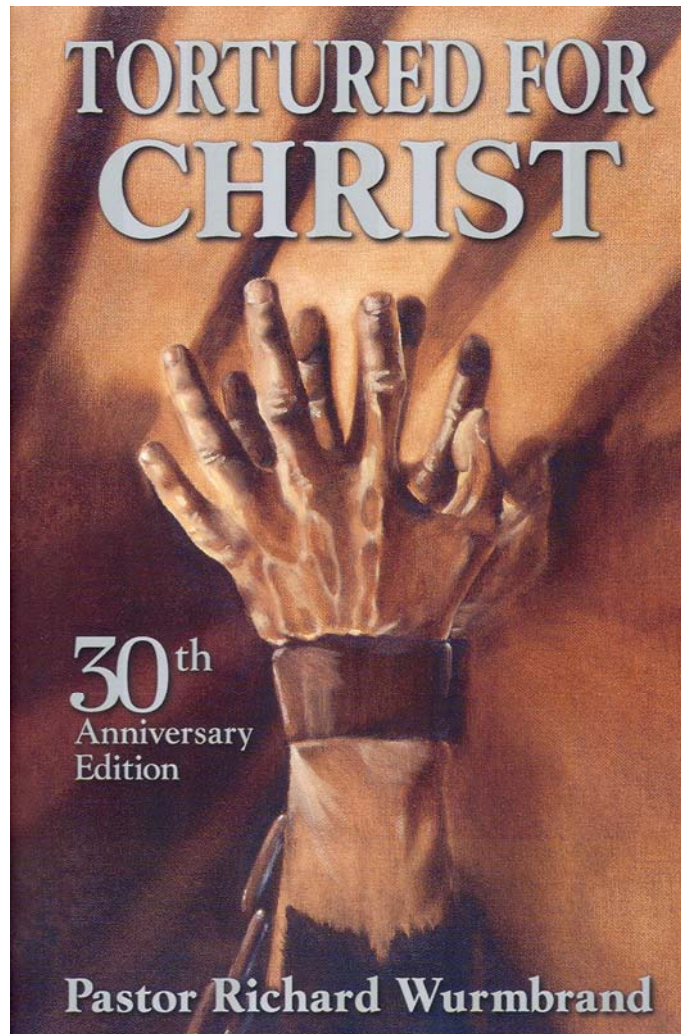
(Nov 04) Blessing of Unity and Connectedness #1-10099TP or #1-10099CD

Many Christians see the idea of structured social connections, joining organizations, and the like, as a risky proposition that can cause heartache and a loss of autonomy. This teaching argues from Scripture, logic, and sociological research that the real risk is to not have enough social connection, including organizational involvement, and that this risk actually extends to physical and emotional health.

The common objections to belonging to a religious organization are answered, and a strong connection is made between the English definitions of "organization," "organism," etc., and the language of the Church Epistles. For those who have doubts about the wisdom of Christians organizing their efforts to further the truth of God's Word around the world, this teaching will both challenge and reassure. By Mark Graeser.

We highly recommend this book!

Tortured For Christ



Hebrews 13:3

Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Months of solitary confinement, years of periodic torture, constant suffering from hunger and cold, the anguish of brainwashing and mental cruelty - these are the experiences of a Romanian pastor during his fourteen years in Communist prisons. His crime, like that of thousands of others, was his fervent belief in Jesus Christ and his public witness concerning that faith. Meeting in homes, in basements, and in woods - sometimes daring to preach in public on street corners - these faithful souls persisted in their Christian witness knowing full well the ultimate cost of their actions. This is their story - a classic account of courage, tenacious faith, and unbelievable endurance. This history on the Underground Church reflects the continuing struggle in many parts of the world today. Visit www.persecution.com for more information on The Persecuted Church.

Item Number: 4-100018

Cost: \$6.00 (plus S&H)

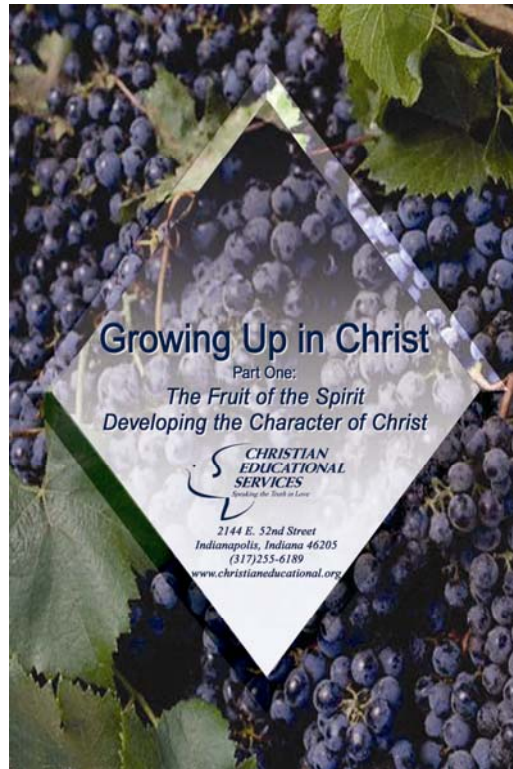
Order online at www.CESonline.org under the "Books by Others" section, call us toll free at 888-255-6189, M-F 8:30 to 5 or see the order form on back.

Growing Up in Christ: Part One

The Fruit of the Spirit Developing the Character of Christ

(Item # 1-400500 \$30.00 12 hours includes syllabus)

**HAVE YOU
HEARD THIS
SEMINAR?**



**HAVE YOU
HEARD THIS
SEMINAR?**

As set forth in Galatians 5, the fruit of the spirit are *love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, kindness, faithfulness, meekness, and self-control*. These sterling qualities are what comprised the character of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because each Christian has within him the incorruptible seed of Christ, his divine nature, each of us has the potential to bear the fruit of the spirit and be like Jesus.

How do we cultivate these vital elements in our lives to maximize our own spiritual potential and reach others with the truth?

This does not happen simply by operating the manifestations of the spirit, because there is no Scripture that says that. Each of the fruit is an attitude, i.e., a mental/emotional quality manifest in one's behavior. There are eleven teachings in this seminar, including an Introduction and two teachings on love. We believe it will help you grow in grace and shine forth the love of Christ.

Christian Educational Services 2144 East 52nd Street Indianapolis, IN 46205
Fax: 317-255-6249 E-mail: CES@CESonline.org

Order online at www.CESonline.org, call us toll free at 888-255-6189, or see the order form on back.

