Trusting God for the Results
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I. Introduction.

    A. We must store up the promises in our hearts ahead of time so that we have them for times of adversity. This will help us trust God when He fulfills them. (Psalm 119:11)

    B. Text: James 1:2-4.

    C. God uses adversity to grow our spiritual muscles.

    D. "Endurance" means to bear up under a heavy load. "Perseverance" means to keep pressing forward in spite of adversity.

II. Perseverance is impossible without adversity. This is why God does not remove suffering from our lives. (2 Corinthians 12)

    A. This should be encouraging because it means that God is at work in our lives.

    B. God never wastes pain- there is always a redeeming purpose to adversity in our lives.

    C. God will not fail at the work He begins in you through suffering. (Philippians 1:6)

    D. Because of these things, we must choose to trust God in our every day attitudes.

        1. Trusting God does not diminish the pain that we go through.

        2. God recognizes our pain in the suffering. Pain is what produces results in our lives. (Hebrews 12:10-11; Romans 8:28-29)

III. There are four beneficial effects of adversity.

    A. We grow in Christ like character. (Hebrews 12:10-11; Romans 8:28-29)

    B. We have greater fruitfulness in our own lives. (John 12:24)

        1. Adversity often means that some aspect of our lives must die- goals, abilities, etc.

        2. God has to prune us in order to bring about fruit in our lives. (John 15)

    C. Adversity will cause us to know God on a more intimate level. (Job 42:5; Philippians 3:10)

    D. Adversity gives us hope for eternal life. (Romans 8:18, 24)

Application questions:

1. Is there adversity in your life that you are resisting? What might God's purpose be for that adversity?

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2. How does the thought that God never wastes pain bring hope to you?

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3. Think of times in your life that you have experienced adversity. Do you see any growth in Christ-like character? Any increase in intimacy between you and God? Any greater fruitfulness? Did your hope grow?

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