

TRIALS, TESTING AND TRIBULATION OF OVERCOMERS

The Bible gives us several examples of individuals who endured trials, testing and tribulation as they were being prepared for God's purposes. The pattern in scripture reveals that the "called out ones" must experience various "separations", that they may be fully consecrated unto Yahweh, our Father; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18. His goal for us is that we would know Him intimately and be transformed into the image of the Son, Jesus Christ; Romans 8:29-30; 12:2; Ephesians 4:13; Philippians 3:10.

Jesus Is The Pattern For Us; 1 Timothy 1:16:

All who overcome must walk through these experiences:

- a. Be born of the Spirit - Luke 1:35; John 1:12-13
- b. Be baptized in water - Mark 1:9; Romans 6:4
- c. Be filled with the Holy Spirit - Mark 1:10-11; John 1:32
- d. Be led into the wilderness - Mark 1:12-13; Deuteronomy 8:2
- e. Go into the land of promise - Luke 4:14,18; Joshua 5:12

Jesus' Followers Will Also Endure Trials, Testing And Tribulation; Matthew 10:24-25

The "Sanctification Process" produces a growth in holiness. His grace gives us the ability to carry the cross in obedience to God, to walk by faith in love, through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit; Acts 1:8; Eph. 2:8-9. All must overcome some degree of:

- a. Misunderstanding – Matthew 26:61; 27:39-42
- b. Persecution – 2 Timothy 3:12
- c. Loneliness – 2 Timothy 4:16
- d. Spiritual Warfare – Luke 4:1-13
- e. Suffering – Hebrews 5:8
- f. Rejection – Luke 20:17
- g. Betrayal – Mark 14:41

The Process Of Sanctification Includes "A Severing, A Departure, A Separation" From:

- a. The "comfort zones" of our past, our natural human tendencies and behavior which hinder us from moving forward in our walk with God.
- b. The "allegiances and loyalties" that we have held toward individuals, groups, religious systems, traditions and works associated with them.
- c. The "world system", and its values, pursuits, lifestyle, philosophies and practices.
- d. The "works of the flesh" must be severed (put to death) within us; Galatians 5:16-21.

Many "Separations" Are Recorded In Scripture:

1. The Separation Of Individuals From Kingdoms / Nations
 - a. Noah and his family were separated from all the people of the earth; Gen. 7:15-16
 - b. Abraham left the land of his native birth; Genesis 12:1-5
 - c. Moses left the land of Egypt; Exodus 2:15
 - d. Ruth was separated from her people and followed Naomi; Ruth 1:16
 - e. David and a group of "misfits" were separated from Saul's kingdom; 1 Sam. 22:1-2
 - f. Esther was separated from her people and married a non-Jewish king; Esther 2:16-17
 - g. Nehemiah left his position with a Persian king to work in God's Kingdom; Neh. 2:6

2. Separations Will Come Between Family Members
 - a. Abraham and Lot were separated from each another; Genesis 13:10-12
 - b. Isaac and Ishmael were separated; Genesis 21:9-14
 - c. Jacob was separated from Esau; Genesis 25:23
 - d. Joseph and his brethren were separated from each other; Genesis 37:25-28
 - e. The “sword” brings a separation in families; Matthew 10:34-39; Luke 14:20, 26-27
 - f. Jesus defines “family members”, our true brethren; Matthew 12:48-50; Heb. 2:11-13

3. Separations Will Come Among Professing Believers
 - a. Wise and Foolish Virgins are separated; Matthew 25:10-12
 - b. Separation of Obedient and Disobedient brethren; Acts 5:1-10; 1 Corinthians 5:11

4. Disciples And The Multitudes Are Separated
 - a. Jesus speaks to the multitudes in parables; Matthew 13:34
 - b. Jesus reveals mysteries to His disciples, who are intimate with Him; Mark 4:33-34

5. A Separation Is Revealed Between True Messengers And False Messengers
 - a. Elijah stood alone against 450 false prophets of Baal; 1 Kings 18:21-40
 - b. Micaiah stood alone against 400 false prophets of Ahab; 1 Kings 22:6-28

6. There Is A Sifting And A Separation Within The Ranks Of Warriors
 - a. Gideon’s army was reduced from 32,000 men to 300 overcomers; Judges 7:7
 - b. The majority were fearful, and therefore, were disqualified; Judges 7:3
 - c. The undisciplined ones “tested at the water” (of the word) are rejected; Judges 7:4-5

7. Separations Will Come Between Mentors And Their Disciples
 - a. Jesus told His disciples that He would be taken from them; John 16:32
 - b. Elijah was taken from Elisha; 2 Kings 2:12
 - c. Paul told those he instructed that he would soon depart from them; 2 Timothy 4:6

Other Individuals In Scripture Who Had To Overcome Through Great Trials:

Job – had to overcome the loss of his children, servants, possessions and health; his wife was a complainer, and his friends were “miserable comforters”; Job 2:9-10; 16:2

Rahab – had to overcome her past as an idolater and prostitute, and also seeing her people destroyed and her city demolished; Joshua 2:1, 9-21

Mephibosheth – who came from “Lodebar” (a place of exile), had to overcome issues of abandonment, his crippled condition (spiritual paralysis), rejection; 2 Sam. 4:4; 9:1-11

Abigail – who was humble and generous, was married to an arrogant, selfish husband; she risked her own life, appealing to king David for mercy; 1 Sam. 25:3-11; 18-32.

Hannah – had to overcome the pain of being barren; while she was weeping and praying, making a vow to God, a priest falsely accused her of being drunk; 1 Samuel 1:1-15

Mary Magdalene – had to overcome the stigma from her past as a demon-possessed prostitute; she also endured the pain of seeing Jesus in agony on the cross; Luke 8:2

The Woman of Samaria – had to overcome the reproach of the Jews who looked down upon her as a Samaritan, one who had several romantic liaisons in her past; John 4:1-42

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