

THE PATH TO CHRISTIAN MATURITY

I. GOD'S PLAN FOR THE CHRISTIAN IS THREE-FOLD

1. Birth – 2. Growth – 3. Maturity

He uses The Scripture – The Church – Other Believers – and Trials to lead us Maturity.
The key beloved is that we must follow.

Psalm 23:1-4 Amplified

II. WHY CHRISTIANS HAVE TRIALS?

1 Peter 4:12

1. Christians have trials *because we live in a sinful world.*
 - a. We are part of a fallen race. **Romans 3:10-12**
 - b. We live in a world of crime, sickness, and death. **Hebrews 9:27**
2. Christians have trials *because of the power of Satan.*
 - a. We have an adversary: Satan
Adversary: An opponent that is on the attack!
 - b. Consider Satan's attack on Job.
 - c. He is like a roaring lion **1 Peter 5:8**
3. Christians are *on a collision course with the world.*
 - a. Jesus warned of this conflict. **John 15:18-20**
 - b. Many have suffered and died for Christ. **Hebrews 11:36-40**

III. WHY THE CHRISTIAN'S TRIALS ARE DIFFERENT

1 Peter 4:13

1. Christians *never suffer alone.* **Hebrews 13:5b, 6**
2. Christians *become partakers of Christ's sufferings.* **1 Peter 4:13**
3. Christian trials *have a design and purpose.* **Romans 8:28, 29**
4. Christian trials *lead to coming Glory.* **Romans 8:17, 18**

IV. HOW MATURE CHRISTIANS REACT TO THEIR TRIALS

1 Peter 4:12-14

Be Very Glad, you will be blessed.

1. Christians may have *trials concerning their finances.*
 - a. Sometimes we make poor financial decisions.
 - b. Sometimes financial conditions are out of our control.
 - c. Financial trials *often teach us to care and to give.*
2. Christians may have *trials concerning their health.*
Health trials *often teach us to sympathize and pray.*
3. Christians may have *trials concerning their families.*
 - a. Even the faithful often suffer in this area.
 - b. These trials *often teach us to rejoice in the family of God.*
4. Christians may have *emotional problems.*
Emotional problems *often teach us to lean on Jesus.*

Conclusion: How are you doing in God's school of Trials?
Are your trials making you BETTER OR BITTER?
Look To Jesus in Trials – He Understands and Cares.