

Reflecting the Principle through Self Evaluation

Life Principle #26

Adversity is a bridge to a deeper relationship with God.

Do you feel that your trials have been prolonged, intense, complicated and stressful?

If so, how has your relationship with God been affected?
Have you drawn closer to Him or have you pushed Him away?

The more fiercely you insist on holding on to your earthly sources of pleasure and accomplishment, the longer it will take for God to teach you that only He can heal your soul. If you feel like God is far away during your trials, evaluate the amount that you are holding on to earthly pleasures and accomplishments. Write down how your hold on these have taken your focus off of God.

Commit yourself to trusting God by surrendering your will to Him and asking Him to give you wisdom to when you have taken your focus off Him, His love, and His strength.

How can I make my adversity a bridge to God?

Realize that contentment is possible in the midst of adversity. Paul stated: *"I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am."* (Phil. 4:11).

Submit to God's provision of supernatural strength in our weakness. Our limitations allow the Holy Spirit's power to work through our lives (2 Cor. 12:9-10).

Rely on the Lord as the Source for all your needs. When we fully rely on the Father, we can count on His provision (Phil. 4:19).

Trust in the Lord's faithfulness. Depend on the Lord to carry you through any trial (1 Cor. 10:13).

Realize that the Father values service more than our desires. Instead of satisfying your natural inclination toward comfort and ease, realize that God may send adversity to prepare you for greater service (2 Cor. 12:7). The Lord prioritizes character development over comfort.

Treat everything as if it comes from God. The Lord uses all we experience, even the wrongs of others, for His purposes in our lives. Embrace the circumstances that come your way as opportunities to grow.

Look forward to the opportunities you will have to comfort others. Adversity prepares us to comfort others more effectively. From God's viewpoint, suffering prepares us to minister to others (2 Cor. 1:3-8).