

Reflecting the Principle through Self Evaluation Life Principle #7

*The dark moments of our life will last only so long
as is necessary for God to accomplish His purpose in us..*

- Are you in adversity at the moment? What things have you been telling yourself about the longevity of this adversity?
- How have you been responding to the adversity? Are you keeping your focus on God? Are you rebelling against God?
- One of God's purposes to allowing dark moments in our lives is to conform us to the likeness of Christ. Are your choices and actions in line with the likeness of Christ?
- Romans 8:28 tells us that ALL things work for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. Are you searching for God's purpose in this time of darkness? Ask God: "How are You using this adversity for Your glory and my good?"

God's Purpose for Dark Times

- **The Father's primary purpose for adversity is to conform us to the likeness of Christ** (Rom. 8:29). He desires to mold you and me so that our character mirrors the nature of Jesus: the way He thinks, loves, and forgives. Through hardship, the Lord teaches us to depend on His presence instead of relying on our own strength. God's love for us does not eliminate pain, suffering, and heartache. But it does guarantee that He will use it for His glory and our good (Rom. 8:28).
- **The Lord uses suffering to teach us to keep our focus on Him.** We learn to trust that He will bring good out of our difficulty, and that rebellion only lengthens the duration of our trials. In the middle of a dark time, it may look as if the adversity will never end. But God loves you and will complete His plan for your life somehow—if you trust and obey Him.

How can you survive the dark moments of life?

- **Trust God.** Unless you rely on Him, you will not overcome difficulty.
- **Read His Word and allow the Lord to speak to you.** As you meditate on the Scriptures, you will be training your mind to think as God does. The more you think Christ-like thoughts, the more you will act in a holy manner. That means you must dedicate time to reading and studying His Word. If you set aside time for listening to Him, He will lead you through every situation you encounter.