

Listen carefully to the Bible reading from 1 Peter chapter 1 verses 3 to 9.

We will sometimes suffer and go through painful times in life. What are the right things for us to do or think when we suffer? Put a ✓ or a ✗ in the for each of these sentences to show if they are right or wrong.

When we suffer...

...it is OK to ask God "Why?"

...it is OK to get angry with God

...we should be honest with God about how we feel

Painful times like this can be confusing, but God works his good _____ (slpna) for us through them and he has told us about this in the _____ (ielBb)

Today we'll see three things God is doing when we suffer:

1

He wants to grow our faith

Read 1 Peter 1v6-7.

What does the verse say gold is tested by? _____

What in the verse is more precious than gold? _____

Peter talks about how gold is purified. You may remember how this works.



1. Metals like gold are hidden inside rock and must be separated



2. The rock is placed in a container called a crucible and put into the hot furnace



3. Once it has been melted down it can be poured out



4. When melted the worthless rock becomes separated from the gold and can be scraped away



5. It may be placed back in the furnace several times till the gold becomes more and more pure



6. Finally the metal is left to cool as precious, pure gold!

So how is our faith like gold? Join the correct dots below.

What gets burned up and scraped away like the worthless rock?

•

The hard and painful things that happen to us

•

What is the precious thing that is left behind?

•

The way we think that we don't need God

•

What is the heat that separates them?

•

That we trust in God more and more

•

Difficult times teach us to trust in God more deeply. This is one way God helps to grow our faith.

2

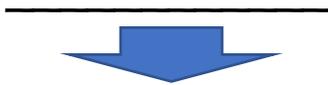
He wants to build our character

In your Bible find Romans chapter 5. Read Romans 5v1-5.
Here are verses 3-4:

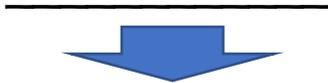
"Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope..."

Can you see how one thing leads to another?

Read verses 3 and 4 again carefully and pick out the correct words to go in the spaces below:



These are the hard and painful times we face in our lives



This is being able to keep on going without stopping or giving up



This is being a better person - being more like Jesus!



This is knowing what lies ahead - that God will bring his people to himself and all will praise and worship him!

Who we are inside, our **character**, gets built and developed as we overcome difficulties.

Without hard times we will stay **child-like**

but God wants to make us **Christ-like!**

3

He wants to drive us to himself

What are some of the things you enjoy most?

(It could be something you like to do or play with or something else)

God uses difficult times to teach us to **love him** more than anything else in the world.

Use the words in the box to complete the sentences:

need

lose

show

learn

love

Sometimes we may _____ something that we _____.

We may need to _____ that we don't really _____ it.

God may want to _____ us that we really only need him.

Imagine - how would you feel if you saw Jesus in heaven face to face?

If we are followers of Jesus, one day we actually will see our glorious, beautiful saviour face to face!

Then we will know he is the most precious thing of all.

So God works in all these things to get us ready.

Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

Psalm 73v25