

Hardships and Hard Times: By Erica Jermanus

This book is for those going through pain, trials, and sufferings, or seasons of trying times.

Introduction

Chapter 1: Why we go through trials and hardships of many kinds

Chapter 2: The different types of trials we go through in life and how to endure through them

Chapter 3: Finding comfort and joy in the midst of the sorrow

Conclusion: Thank you for your support!

Introduction:

In this book, I talk about why God allows suffering in this world and why Christians go through trials and tribulations. I also talk about some of the ways that Christians suffer in life and how they can endure and persevere through it. In addition, I talk about how we can find comfort, joy, and peace in the midst of pain and sorrow. No matter what you are going through, whether it is a job loss, a financial crisis, a heartbreak, etc., God is with you through it and fighting for you! He will help you to get through that situation as you continue to trust in him and lean on him for guidance, provision, restoration, and support.

Chapter 1: Why we go through trials and hardships of many kinds

Every Christian or believer will suffer for Christ. No Christian has a perfect life. It is not always sunshine, rainbows, and lollipops. No, we will be faced with trials and tribulations if we are Christians. People think Christians have the most perfect life and that they have everything going for them all the time. But that is far from true. Christians have their fair share of trials, hardships, pain, and suffering. It is not easy being a Christian. It is not easy walking the straight and narrow path. The straight and narrow path can get lonely at times.

In fact, you will be alone much of the time because you will lose friends and family for the gospel sake or for Christ sake. Not only that, God will start removing people out of your life who no longer belong there. Because he wants to send the right, godly influences in our lives who will help us to reach our destiny and fulfill our purpose in life. God wants to send people in our lives who will not only love us the way God loves us, but who will help, support, and encourage us.

So when you are alone, you may feel lonely because you are on the straight and narrow path. When you are alone, you get to spend more time with God, just you and him alone with no one else around. Also, it is in that place alone that we get to know the heart and character of God. We get to hear his voice in the secret place with him. Then, we can obey his commands or instructions that he gives us to do. When we walk in obedience to God and his commands, that is when the blessings will follow.

So it is not always easy going through trials and tribulations. It is difficult. It is like you are facing the wind while walking up a steep mountain. That is how trials and tribulations can feel when you are undergoing them. But God has a purpose for going through them. We will not grow and become the person who God has called us to be if we do not go through hardship, pain, and suffering. The trials we go through are meant to shape, make, and mold us into Christlikeness. When we face something difficult, it gives us a chance to replicate Christ in our thoughts, words, and actions. The difficulty can cause us to mature in our faith and character.

Trials allow us to become strengthened, and trials also allow for our faith to become stronger as well. When we go through a trial and we endure and persevere through it, that is when we will develop patience, endurance, and perseverance. James 1:2-4 says, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

When we have endured through a temptation, a struggle, a hardship, or a persecution at the end of our lives, we will receive rewards and crowns for what we suffered here on earth. James 1:12 says, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

We will also receive a greater crown of glory, which is eternal life. We just need to continue to endure through the trials and sufferings and not faint or grow weary. Ask God to help you to endure and persevere and not to give up the good fight of faith. Galatians 6:9 says,

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

Remember that these trials and hardships are just temporary and will not last forever. Every trial and hardship has an expiration date. There is a date for the trial to come to an end. We just need to be patient with ourselves and with God and know that better days are to come. When we wait and be patient, it allows us to deepen our faith and trust in God. When we wait on God and his timing, he is faithful to come through for us. It may not be the way we want him to come through or the exact timing. But he will come through according to his perfect will and timing. We just need to keep trusting in him.

Isaiah 55:8-9 says, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Chapter 2: The different types of trials we go through in life

There will be times when we go through trials of many kinds. We may be going through more than one trial at a time. It is possible that you could be going through multiple trials at a time. It can become disheartening or discouraging. You may be thinking, When are these trials going to stop or when will I get through this? You may have gone through a trial for a long time. Maybe you have been battling with sickness or disease, such as cancer or diabetes, and you have been going to doctors and getting treatment. You are expecting God to heal and deliver you.

I want to let you know that it is God's will to heal, deliver, and set you free. But sometimes it does not happen right when we want him to, but in his perfect timing. So we just need to trust in him and know that the healing and the deliverance will come right on time. Isaiah 53:5 says, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

Maybe for some of you, you lost your job and you do not have another income coming in right now. You do not know how you are going to get your bills paid or

how you are going to put food on the table for you and your family. I want to let you know that God will still provide for your situation. He will still make a way for you when you trust him to come through right on time.

God will provide the right job for you that is in his will. He may not want you to have a job outside of your home. Maybe he wants you to go into ministry full time or to start a business. Whatever it is, be led and guided by the Holy Spirit. Know that he will provide that job or that ministry opportunity. That is where our faith will be tested and tried. That is when we will have to do nothing but trust God and know that he will show up for us right on time. Philippians 4:19 says, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

For others, maybe they have lost their home or their loved ones in a car accident or an early death. These people may be struggling with grief, sadness, or depression due to the loss of a home, a job, a business, or a loved one. I want you to know that whatever you have lost on earth, you will regain it back, whether it be here on earth or the next life if you are a Christian. You may be hurting now. You may have shed

some tears. God sees the hurt, the pain, and the tears you cried. He knows what you are going through. He knows how you feel, and he cares for you and loves you so much.

There may be times when you feel weak and tired. You may feel like you cannot do much of anything or that you cannot get anything done because of the weakness. Sometimes that weakness is due to witchcraft attacks or spiritual warfare attacks. We just need to rebuke it. Other times the Lord may use our weakness so that we can become strong through him. God's strength is made perfect in our weakness. When we are weak, then we are strong.

We won't be strong unless we have experienced being weak or tired. God is the one who can restore us and renew our strength when we are weak. He is the one where our strength comes from. Our strength does not come from the world or the things in the world. Our strength comes from Christ alone. He is our sure hope, our firm foundation, and the steady rock on which we stand.

2 Corinthians 12:9 says, "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

Whatever you are going through on this earth, know that God is using it for the greater good. He has a plan and purpose for the pain and the suffering. It is ultimately for him to get the glory and not us. God uses suffering to humble us. When we go through something painful, we are able to testify about it because of the greatness of God. That is when we share what the Lord has done in our lives and how he has been so faithful. We then will have experiences and encounters that we can share with others going through similar situations and circumstances.

Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 says, "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ."

When we allow God to use us, that is when he can get the glory out of our lives. God will use us in ways that we may not think are possible. He will help us to reach people that may be lost, broken, hurt, down, out, and depressed because he knows that we can touch them or help them. He knows what we are capable of because of the pain that we have suffered and endured. Our testimony is the antidote to someone else's pain and suffering. We then can reach others with the gospel who are going through brokenness, pain, hurt, and suffering. Revelation 12:11 says, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony;"

Chapter 3: Finding comfort and joy in the midst of the sorrow

There will be times when we are undergoing pain and suffering that we want to mourn, grieve, and weep. We are so hurt and broken on the inside, that we cannot help but let it out on the outside. We do not want to keep our feelings and emotions bottled up inside and the only way to really let them out is to give them to God. 1 Peter 5:7 says, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

Talk to Jesus Christ about what you're going through. Share your problems, struggles, thoughts, concerns, joys, and victories. He wants to hear our hearts and our cries because he wants a loving relationship with us. He wants us to commune with him and get into the secret place of prayer and the word. That is when we can not only speak to him, but he can speak directly to us as well. It is a two-way conversation between us and the Holy Spirit. That is how we can develop a relationship with him.

But in the midst of the sorrow, pain, and heartache, God can comfort our hurting hearts. He can fill us with his all-surpassing peace and joy. Jesus Christ is the one that calmed the raging winds and seas. He

commanded the sea to be at peace and to be still. If he did that, then he can do the same for us who are anxious, worried, and weighed down with the cares of this life. He wants to still our hearts, minds, bodies, and souls and give us the peace that this world does not offer.

The peace and joy that Jesus Christ wants to give us does not come from this world but is supernatural. It is a peace that goes above and beyond human comprehension. Philippians 4:7 says, "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." John 14:27 says, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

You may be asking why God would allow pain and suffering in this world. If he loved us, why would he allow us to go through these things such as sickness, disease, pain, loss, or poverty? I want to say that God has a plan for all of what we go through in life. God wants to use what we go through in life to shape, make, and mold us into his image and likeness. We just need to be willing to trust him through it and know that if God

allows it, it is for our good and for our best interest at heart. God would not allow us to go through something if he did not have a purpose for it.

God is using those trials and tests to build faith and character and to grow you. When you go through something painful, you grow through it, and it allows you to become stronger. Then, the next time you go through something else more painful, you will be able to just glide right through it because you experienced pain and suffering before and you know what it is like. We can find comfort, joy, peace, and victory through our trials and sufferings because we know that God will get through them to the other side. Trials, pain, and sufferings allow us to trust God even more and know that he is in control of the situation.

Conclusion:

Thank you for supporting this business and ministry! If you are interested in reading more books of mine, head over to the Amazon Kindle store and search for my name, Erica Jermanus. All of my books should come up in the search engine on the Amazon Kindle bookstore. I would not be able to do this without Jesus Christ's

help. He has given me the strength to write these books, edit them, and get them published on Amazon. I give him all the thanks, praise, honor, and glory! Look forward to more books coming soon, Lord willing.