

They also faced
Trials & Tribulations

O	F	Y	C	Y	G	Z	Q	M	A	D	A	R	Z	M
S	B	A	R	N	A	B	A	S	I	V	J	S	Z	J
F	F	H	J	H	H	L	V	I	V	J	Z	T	M	U
K	C	W	P	L	U	A	S	Q	D	S	L	E	N	S
N	U	A	V	E	K	M	R	L	K	F	U	P	O	N
A	E	B	L	S	S	L	F	A	B	R	A	H	A	M
T	L	E	O	E	A	O	E	T	S	M	P	E	H	B
H	I	K	L	C	B	M	J	I	B	P	S	N	U	X
A	S	I	V	A	A	Q	U	G	N	S	G	S	G	Y
N	H	B	D	T	Z	J	B	E	E	A	U	E	B	H
H	A	A	S	E	M	A	J	A	L	N	D	S	A	X
J	I	L	C	J	O	B	R	F	M	W	U	I	E	M
Z	K	A	N	I	W	R	K	U	X	O	R	J	E	J
D	I	A	R	A	L	I	R	I	S	U	S	C	U	T
I	S	M	O	N	O	E	D	I	G	S	V	X	S	D

Words to Find:	Balaam	Gideon	Joseph	Samuel
Abraham	Barnabas	Jacob	Lazarus	Sarah
Adam	Caleb	James	Nathan	Saul
Amos	Daniel	Jesus	Noah	Stephen
	Elisha	Job	Paul	Uriah

"God has one Son without sin, but He never had a son without trial!" — Jeremy Taylor

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Follow the Detour

Bill Brinkworth

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:6

No one likes the aggravation of changing their travel plans, because of a detour in the road. The signs put up by the road's work crew point us in a direction that is not where we had planned to go. One has to change direction and go another way. We are not in control. We have to follow someone else's plan in getting us where we want to go.



"Who do those construction people think they are? Making me go this long way. Why, I just want to go a little way down the road," one may grumble under his breath. However, they obey the signs and the flagman, and get there safely. They may not have had that testimony if they did not obey their directions. They may have had a terrible accident and destroyed their vehicle, if they had ignored the detour signs and continued on the

path they wanted to go.

Too many ignore the "flagman" God has put in their path to move them in another better direction. Maybe that test you failed, even though you "studied your brains out," was a "flagman" to get you to know and later witness to a tutor. Perhaps, it was

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Wisdom of Trials

S. Coley

Unthinking people would like a world where corn should grow spontaneously and plenty, ever ready to eat. They would have their path beautified by flowers fairer than those of Eden, and refreshed by zephyrs balmier than those of the sunny south. They would banish care and make work obsolete. How would a world like that fair? Doubtless the race would degenerate to a people soft and lazy – wanting their handouts and to be taken care of. God is too wise for this. He knows comfort to be of far less importance than character, and acts on that knowledge.

Follow the Detour

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intended to build your perseverance. If you had cheated, and passed, you would not be going down the road God had planned for you.

Maybe the family split, although not God's first plan, had something you could learn from it. Sticking-it out and praying through the problem will help you; so divorce never happens in your life. Maybe, after going through that terrible event, you will be able to minister to others in that situation. Running away from that situation would be going through the "detour".

No one likes or wants a serious illness. Yet in the dark, scary valley the sickness takes one, it is probably the time the patient is the closest to God. It is most likely the time when the most prayers are cried out, and when trusting in the Lord is the greatest.

Use your imagination as to how God could use the bad things in your life for His and your good. He is aware of your roadblock. A Christian is to be sensitive to the leading, as well as the halting of the Lord. Give Him credit for all that happens in your life, and He will direct your path. Trials and detours are many times intended to get us closer to God; so that we can see His wondrous hand in our lives.

"A trial is an experiment or search made upon a man, by some affliction, to prove the value and strength of his faith."

— Henry

Help in Trials

F. W. Robertson

There are two ways of helping a man burdened with what he has to do or bear.

The one is to give him less to do or bear; to take the burden off his back.

The other way is to strengthen him to do or bear all that is sent him; to strengthen the back to bear the burden.

In brief, you may give less work; or you may give more strength. It is in this way that the wise and Almighty Saviour promises help to His people in their trials. When He does not see it proper to lessen the work, or reduce the burden, He says, "...My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness ..." (II Cor. 12:9). Thus Abraham, Job, and Paul, were helped in their trials.

Because He Loves Us

Author Unknown



Our heavenly Father loves us; and because of this love, He sometimes takes away our precious things. He deals with us, on occasion, as an ancient painter had to with his pupil.

The young artist was a genius, and produced a picture of much merit, and which was greatly admired by all. His

young heart then swelled with vanity. He laid aside his palette and pencil, and sat daily before his easel, admiring the offspring of his own genius.

One morning, he found his beautiful creation expunged from the canvass. He wept bitterly. His master appeared and said, "I have done this for your benefit. The picture was ruining you."

"How so?" demanded the pupil.

"Because, in the admiration of your own talents, you were losing your love of the art itself. Take your pencil, and try again."

The youth dried his tears, seized his pencil, and produced a masterpiece, which, but for this severe trial, he would in all probability have never produced.

Tests

Jonathan Edwards

The surest way to know the value of our "gold" is to look upon it and examine it in God's furnace, where He tries it for that end; that we may see what it is.

If we have a mind to know whether a building stands strong or not, we must look upon it when the wind blows. If we would know whether that which appears in the form of wheat has the real substance of wheat, or be only chaff, we must observe it when it is winnowed. If we would know whether a staff be strong, or a rotten, broken reed, we must observe it when it is leaned on, and weight is borne upon it. If we would weigh our-

"Fire, hammer, and file are necessary to give the metal form; and it must have many a grind, and many a rub ere it will shine. So, in trial, character is shaped, beautified, and brightened." — S. Coley

selves justly, we must weigh ourselves in God's scales, that He makes use of to weigh us.

Protection

J. A. James

We never know how near we are to danger. We are like blind men wandering near the edge of a precipice, the mouth of a well, or the margin of a deep pit; and then God, by a severe push or a violent jerk, puts us to some pain and gives us a severe shock, plucks us from the ruin that we saw not.

Oh, what hair-breadth escapes from destruction of some distressing occurrence shall we, in eternity, be made to understand that we experienced on earth.

We now often stand amazed at some sore trial. We cannot conjecture why it was sent. We see no purpose it was to serve, no end it was to accomplish, but there was an Omniscient Eye that saw what we did not and could not see, and He sent forth this event to pluck our feet from a danger. How we shall adore God in heaven for these preventing mercies that came in the form of some dark and inexplicable event, but which filled us at the same time with lamentation and woe!