

1 Peter  
1:6-7

Why We  
Hate Trials  
(And Why  
We Love  
Them)



## Summary of Today's Message

If the trials of life could only exist by popular demand, we would have voted them away long ago. People, by and large, hate suffering of any kind. Here in the Western world, we have made it our aim to mitigate against any form of it by a multitude of distractions and experiences.

## Summary of Today's Message

There is even a theology that seeks to say God never wants us to suffer—ever. In today's message we will look at five reasons why we hate (and love) trials, and consider how they can be used to make us better people.

# I. Trials are diverse

You can categorize trials in three ways

Physical

Mental or emotional

Spiritual

## II. Trials cause grief

Grief is a normal and healthy human expression

In ancient times, Hebrews would grieve

Public period of grief that lasted 30 days

The Egyptians had a 70 day period of grief

### III. Trials can be helpful

"If you pinned them against the wall in the dark, in a secret moment, many Christians would probably admit that pain was God's one mistake. He really should have worked a little harder and invented a much better way of coping with the world's dangers" —Philip Yancey

### III. Trials can be helpful

Trials can be the will of God

(see 1 Peter 3:17, 4:19)

Trials provide a course correction

"Pain plants the flag of truth in the fortress of a rebel soul" —C.S. Lewis

### III. Trials can be helpful

Pain humbles us

Trials strengthens us

Trials equip us



### III. Trials can be helpful

When you come through the trial, you will be able to help others to get through similar trials

"You will not have any test of faith that will not fit you to be a blessing" —A.B. Simpson

## IV. Trials reveal what kind of faith you have

A faith that cannot be tested is a faith that  
cannot be trusted

## V. Trials refine us

God is out to bless you, not burn you

"If God puts you in the furnace, His eye is on the clock and his hand is on the thermostat" —

Warren Wiersbe

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## V. Various trials comparison (see 1 Peter 4:10)

Manifold trials you go through

Manifold grace of God

How do you react in a trial?

Release a fragrance, add a flavor

Tell the storm how big your God is