

TRIALS **OF** MANY KINDS **WEEK 8**

TRIALS OF PARENTING

SCOTT STEVENS

James 1:2-4

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Trial: [peirasmos] a test or a temptation

- Some trials are our own doing, borne out of poor choices, but others cannot be explained on this side of Heaven.

Reality of Trials

- Normal
- Can be joyful
- Should be transformational

Steadfastness: [hupomone] conveys the idea of remaining under pressure and not giving up

Are we worshipping at the altar of happy kids?

We need to be less worried about today's happiness and more concerned about tomorrow's readiness.

1. We rescue too quickly.

- When we step in, we rob them of their confidence and teach them to lean on us instead of leaning on God.
- When we rob them of consequences, we rob them of Godly lessons.

2. We model too weakly.

- Kids don't become what you say, they become what they see.
- Who and what you expose your children to, will shape who they become and what they believe.

Parents have to choose: Are you going to be an intentional Christian, God-following parent or am I going to be a cultural Christian parent?

Ephesians 6:1-4

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

→ Children, in the Greek, is an ageless word.

To be an intentional Spirit-filled parent, you can't have bitterness, disappointment, and resentment for your earthly father.

A Spirit-filled person thanks God always and for everything:

- "God, thank you for my father and for the mess, because when I found you, I understood and embraced a good God."
- Thank you that I found other strong, godly men who got me through difficult spots in my life.
- Thank you because it challenged me to make better choices in my own parenting.

There is a blessing in obedience to our parents.

Deuteronomy 21:18-21

If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and, though they discipline him, will not listen to them, then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gate of the place where he lives, and they shall say to the elders of his city, "This our son is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard." Then all the men of the

city shall stone him to death with stones. So you shall purge the evil from your midst, and all Israel shall here, and fear.

Exodus 21:17

Whoever curses his father or mother should be put to death.

Romans 1:29-31

They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

2 Timothy 3:1-4

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

- For all of human history, children obeying their parents was the good and right thing.

Fathers...Bring them up:

- Nourish, provide, protect
- Cherish, love, adore, treasure

Parenting well in your 70s, 80s:

- Get your affairs in order
- Talk with your kids about your desires

Parenting your elderly parents:

- Nourish them—keep them healthy and safe
- Cherish them—treasure every moment you have

Parenting is a trial. But it comes with **blessing**.

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