

**"Our Awesome God!"**

Greg Wendschlag November 22, 2020

**Psalm 66**

*For the director of music. A song. A psalm.*

<sup>1</sup> Shout for joy to God, all the earth! <sup>2</sup> Sing the glory of His name; make His praise glorious.

<sup>3</sup> Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds! So great is Your power that Your enemies cringe before You. <sup>4</sup> All the earth bows down to You; they sing praise to You, they sing the praises of Your name."

<sup>5</sup> Come and see what God has done, His awesome deeds for mankind! <sup>6</sup> He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the waters on foot— come, let us rejoice in Him. <sup>7</sup> He rules forever by His power, His eyes watch the nations—let not the rebellious rise up against Him. <sup>8</sup> Praise our God, all peoples, let the sound of His praise be heard; <sup>9</sup> He has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping. <sup>10</sup> For You, God, tested us; You refined us like silver. <sup>11</sup> You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs. <sup>12</sup> You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but You brought us to a place of abundance. <sup>13</sup> I will come to Your temple with burnt offerings and fulfill my vows to You— <sup>14</sup> vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble. <sup>15</sup> I will sacrifice fat animals to You and an offering of ram; I will offer bulls and goats. <sup>16</sup> Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what He has done for me. <sup>17</sup> I cried out to Him with my mouth; His praise was on my tongue. <sup>18</sup> If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; <sup>19</sup> but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer. <sup>20</sup> Praise be to God who has not rejected my prayer or withheld His love from me!

**The Awesome Refining Process of God**

*"Praise our God, all peoples, let the sound of His praise be heard; <sup>9</sup> He has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping. <sup>10</sup> For You, God, tested us; You refined us like silver. <sup>11</sup> You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs. <sup>12</sup> You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but You brought us to a place of abundance."*

**1. Trials happen!**

*"Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice..." 1 Peter 4:12*

*"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline and do not lose heart **when** He rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those He loves and He punishes everyone He accepts as a son." Heb. 12:5-6*

*"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, **whenever** you face trials of many kinds..." James 1:2*

*"And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice **in our** sufferings..." Rom. 5:2-3*

Remember: We are not on the earth to be comfortable but to be conformed to the likeness of Christ!

**2. God uses trials of many kinds.**

- Discipline - Train, chasten or correct
- Trials – To examine, to be put to the proof/Internal enticement
- Suffering – Affliction or adversity/External adversity
- Persecution – Painful treatment for the sake of Christ

*"God will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you can bear." 1 Cor. 10:13*

Remember: Trials are not random. Don't waste them!

**3. God allows trials for various reasons.**

- Righteousness and peace

*"God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness...it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." Hebrews 12:10-11*

- Perseverance and completely mature

*“The testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” James 1:3-4*

- Perseverance, character and hope

*“Suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope...” Romans 5:3-4*

- For the purpose of helping someone else.

*“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.” 2 Corinthians 1:3-5*

Remember: Trials are not to destroy you but to strengthen you.

#### **4. How should we respond to trials?**

- Praise the Lord and keep the promises you made during the trial.

*“Praise our God... For You, God, tested us; You refined us like silver...I will come to Your temple with burnt offerings and fulfill my vows to You— <sup>14</sup> vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble.” Psalm 66:8-10; 13-14*

- Don't lose heart but receive **discipline** as a condition of sonship.

*“Don't make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart...Endure hardship as discipline. God is treating you as sons...” Hebrews 12:5-7*

- Be joyful in the midst of the trial.

*“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds...” James 1:2/Romans 5:2-5*

Remember: You will keep going through what you're going through until you grow through what you're going through!

Revelation 1:5-6

To **Him** who loves us and has freed us from our sins by **His** blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve **His** God and Father—to **Him** be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.