

Where Is God When Life Gets Tough?
God's Purpose in Suffering #2—Produce Perseverance, Character, Hope & Faith
First Christian Church—May 17, 2020
Jerome Parker -Community Pastor

Workout— Use adversity and tough times to your advantage

GOD's Story— God's Purpose in Suffering #2: Produce Perseverance, Character, Hope and Faith

- Romans 5:1-5
 - Tribulation (thlipsis)--- pressure, affliction, anguish , persecution, trouble, burden
 - Perseverance (hypomne)—endurance, patience and constancy

The Father desires that we have this same confidence Paul had in him and he knows it is necessary to use the adversities of life to build us and to make us stronger/better.

- 2 Cor. 12:7-10
 - The great exchange— Jesus' strength kicks in when we're weak.
- James 1:2-8
 - When we really understand how valuable and necessary adversity is, our attitude toward it will change.

This current pandemic...

- 1 Peter 5:6-7
 - Casting (epirrhipto) --- to throw/toss or place upon

How do I deal with adversity/suffering?

How do I activate the production process of Perseverance, Character, Hope and Faith?

1. Don't Run from the Fight (count it Joy)
2. Endure the process (be perfected and completed)
3. Keep God involved (cast your care and ask for wisdom)

Big Idea: It's okay to be a little bit crazy...embrace the adversity and rejoice in the hard times because Jesus is waiting to be made strong in your life and exchange your strength for His!

That's What's Up!!