

P.M. OUTLINE
12 / 17 / 2023

FRUIT FROM FRUSTRATIONS

(2 Corinthians 4:8-11, v16-17)

1. THERE WILL BE FRUSTRATIONS, TOUBLES, & TRIALS

- 1) Because of the order of the universe: (Matthew 5:45) "... He sends rain on the just and on the unjust"
- 2) Because of people's choices: government's decisions; employee lay-offs; drunk driver; crime; honest mistakes (I took the wrong road); (2 Timothy 3:12) "all who live godly in Christ Jesus suffer persecution"
- 3) The devil's work: (1 Thessalonians 2:18) "Satan hindered us"

2. THE "FRUIT," BLESSINGS, & BENEFITS

- 1) (Hebrews 12:11) "... chastening ... afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it"

"afterward" - there will be times when we do not see the "silver lining" till the trial is past; when it's over; when we are "through" it. It is friction that polishes the stone and sharpens the ax.

- 2) They cause me not to be satisfied with this life.

The joys of heaven are not on this earth.

We sing: This World Is Not My Home and To Canaan's Land I'm On My Way

- 3) They cause me to be sympathetic toward others in their trials.
- 4) They cause me to have confidence that I can over-come my next frustration. I've overcome before, and I can overcome this one, too.
- 5) My over-coming gives confidence to others that they can over-come. They say, "If Brian can get through that, then I can get through this."
- 6) It develops patience in me when I've been "trained by it."

(Romans 5:3) "... knowing that tribulation works patience"

(James 1:2) "... the proving of your faith works patience"

Over-coming smaller frustrations prepares me to over-come bigger ones.

- 7) The "afterward" provides a check on hurtful tendencies. I've learned and tend to stay away from those things that will hurt me.
- 8) Having experienced frustrations, I appreciate the good times. Having experienced trials, I appreciate peace.

CLOSE: (Romans 8:17-18) "... for I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."