

The Inner Man- Trials part 5

- I.** The inner man represents the believer's participation in the Divine nature.
 - 1. It is hidden from others (1 Pet. 3:4).
 - 1) Not seen on the outside.
 - 2) Involves motivations—heart.
 - 2. It is the opposite of the outer man (2 Cor. 4:16-18).
 - 3. It is the result of the indwelling ministry of all three Persons of the Godhead: mind, nature, anointing.
 - 4. It is renewed day-by-day (2 Cor. 4:16).
 - 5. It is where the believer gets mental strength to bear up under stressful times (2 Cor. 4:16-18).
- II.** Trials—hard times that Christians are to suffer for God.
 - 1. God orchestrates trials to strengthen our faith (Rom. 5:3-4).
 - 2. Trials are not the result of sinning.
 - 3. Trials are distinct from temptation.
 - 1) Trials are caused by external forces.
 - 2) Temptations are internal—in the mind.
 - 4. All that desire to live godly in Christ Jesus shall be persecuted (2 Tim. 3:11-12).
 - 5. If no sin is evident, there should be no guilt (Phil. 1:29; 1 Cor. 11:28).
- III.** Trials that Christians are to endure:
 - 1. Tribulations.
 - 2. Persecutions.
 - 3. Sufferings.
 - 4. Distress.
- IV.** Tribulations, lexical meaning: *pressure, compression, distress*.
 - 1. From the world, because we do not belong to the world (Jn. 16:33; 15:18-19).
 - 2. From unfair treatment (2 Thes. 4-5).
 - 3. From poverty, hunger (Rev. 2:9).
 - 4. Cannot separate a Christian from the love of Christ (Rom. 8:35).
 - 5. Enables the Christian to comfort other believers experiencing tribulation (2 Cor. 1:4).
 - 6. The objective of tribulation is to learn to access and learn to use joy during the event (2 Cor. 7:4).