



Why God Doesn't Make All Your New Years "Happy"



God has some tough appointments on his calendar for you so that you can...

1. Prove _____ (vv.6b-7a)

2. Secure _____ (v.7b)

3. Get _____ (v.6a, 8-9)

1 Peter 1:6-9

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

⁷ These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (NIV)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's message. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others. This can take place with friends, your family, accountability partners, or ministry groups within the church.

1. Describe a situation in which you witnessed people happily profess to trust in God when their life was good, but when the going got tough you watched their faith, their life and their attitude fall apart. (cf. Matthew 13:21)

How tied to circumstances is your faith, life and attitude?

2. List a few of the difficult events that God called you to endure in 2002.

How have these events tested your faith in Christ? In what ways do you think your faith passed those tests and in what ways was your faith deficient?

3. Knowing that God will continue to put your faith to the test in 2003, what encouragement can you draw from your former trials as you prepare for the New Year?

4. Mindful of the benefits of "suffering grief in all kinds of trials" as described in 1 Peter 1, how should your attitude toward the future be different than it has been in the past?

5. Write out a prayer that expresses that you will joyfully walk with Christ through 2003 come what may.

We are reading through the Bible in a year! Here is this week's schedule.

Sunday

Zech. 13-14 & Rev. 20

Monday

Mal. 1-2 & Rev. 21

New Year's Eve

Mal. 3-4 & Rev. 22

2003

New Year's Day

Gen. 1-2 & Matt. 1

Thursday

Gen. 3-4 & Matt. 2

Friday

Gen. 5-6 & Matt. 3

Saturday

Gen. 7-8 & Matt. 4

Here are some resources to help you get the difficult times of your life in a biblical perspective.

Bridges, Jerry. **Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts**. NavPress, 1988.
Carson, D. A. **How Long, O Lord? Reflections on Suffering & Evil**. Baker Books, 1990.
Elliot, Elisabeth. **A Path Through Suffering**. Vine Books, 1990.
Johnson, Barbara. **Stick a Geranium in Your Hat**. Thomas Nelson, 1990.
Lewis, C. S. **The Problem of Pain**. Broadman & Holman, 2000.
Piper, John. **Future Grace: The Purifying Power of Living by Faith**. Multnomah Press, 1998.
Robinson, Haddon. **Grief: Comfort for Those Who Grieve and Those Who Want to Help**. Discovery House, 1996.
Swindoll, Charles. **Hope Again**. Word Publishing, 1996.
Tada, Joni Eareckson. **When God Weeps: Why Our Suffering Matters to the Almighty**. Zondervan, 1997.
Wieland, Carl and Ken Ham. **Walking Through Shadows: Finding Hope in a World of Pain**. Master Books, 2002.
Wiersbe, Warren. **The Bumps Are What You Climb On**. Baker Books, 1980.
Yancey, Philip. **Disappointment with God**. Zondervan, 1997.