



**GREATER HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH**

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**CYBER BIBLE STUDY  
WEDNESDAYS AT 7PM**



PASTOR THOMAS  
CYBER CHURCH COMMUNITY

PASTOR REGINALD D. THOMAS

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# CYBER SERIES: “USE THE WORD”





PASTOR THOMAS  
CYBER CHURCH COMMUNITY

TONIGHT'S LESSON:

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# FAITH IN TROUBLE



A group of children and an adult are gathered together, all with their hands clasped in prayer. The children are of various ages, some looking down and others looking forward. They are wearing casual clothing like t-shirts and dresses. The background is a simple wall with a window. The text "LET US PRAY" is overlaid in large blue letters across the center of the image.

LET US PRAY



# OUR BIBLE STUDY GOAL:

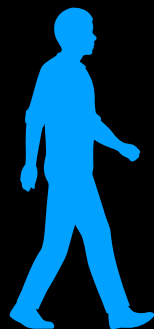




PASTOR THOMAS  
CYBER CHURCH COMMUNITY

# Living a Life Pleasing unto God.

**Walking in Righteousness, Becoming a better  
Christian by following God's word.**



May 6th, 2020

LUKE 1:37 "FOR NO WORD FROM GOD WILL EVER FAIL"

**“BEAUTIFUL SOULS ARE SHAPED BY UGLY EXPERIENCES.”**

**“IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GRADUATE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF LIFE WITH NO SCARS.”**

**“PAIN TEACHES YOU MORE THAN PLEASURE. FAILURE TEACHES YOU MORE THAN SUCCESS. POVERTY TEACHES YOU MORE THAN PROSPERITY. ADVERSITY TEACHES YOU MORE THAN COMFORT.”**

**“WOUNDS ARE LIFE'S TROPHIES FOR ENDURING TRIALS.”**



**MATSHONA DHLIWAYO**



**WHY DO  
BELIEVERS HAVE  
TROUBLE?**



**DO WE FIND OURSELVES ASKING THAT  
QUESTION?**

**DO WE SOMETIMES WONDER BECAUSE WE  
BELIEVE WE ARE LIVING RIGHT,**

**WE'RE PRAYING OFTEN,**

**WE'RE FASTING, WE'RE MEDITATING,  
WE'RE STUDYING THE WORD, WE'RE  
GIVING OUR TITHES, TREATING OUR  
NEIGHBORS RIGHT, WE ARE BEING  
OBEDIENT TO GOD'S WORD, YET TROUBLE  
COMES....**

# WHY DOES \_\_\_\_\_ COME?

- ▶ SICKNESS
- ▶ DISTRESS
- ▶ HEARTBREAK
- ▶ GRIEF
- ▶ LONELINESS
- ▶ FINANCIAL ISSUES
- ▶ CONFUSION
- ▶ MISTREATMENT



WHEN WE QUESTION GOD ABOUT THESE THINGS, WE OPEN  
THE DOOR FOR THE ENEMY TO ATTACK.

HE WILL CAUSE US TO ALLOW DOUBT TO HINDER OUR FAITH,  
HE WILL TRICK US INTO WONDERING IF GOD REALLY LOVES  
US.

HOW COULD A LOVING GOD ALLOW SUCH PAIN FOR HIS  
CHILDREN?

WHEN WE START TO ASK THOSE KIND OF QUESTIONS WE  
THEN SEEK OTHER AVENUES OR RESOURCES TO ADDRESS  
OUR PAIN.

AS SOON AS WE TURN FROM GOD, WE TURN TOWARDS  
WICKEDNESS.

RATHER THAN LOOK AT OUR TRIALS AND TROUBLES AS AN  
ABSENCE OF GOD'S LOVE, WE SHOULD LOOK AT THEM AS  
TRAINING FOR GOD'S REWARD.



**TROUBLE, TRIALS  
AND TRIBULATION  
TEACH US TO  
PERSEVERE**



**SO DO NOT THROW AWAY YOUR  
CONFIDENCE; IT WILL BE RICHLY  
REWARDED. YOU NEED TO PERSEVERE  
SO THAT WHEN YOU HAVE DONE THE  
WILL OF GOD, YOU WILL RECEIVE WHAT  
HE HAS PROMISED. FOR IN JUST A  
VERY LITTLE WHILE...**

**HEBREWS 10:35-37<sup>NIV</sup>**



# James 1:12

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Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.



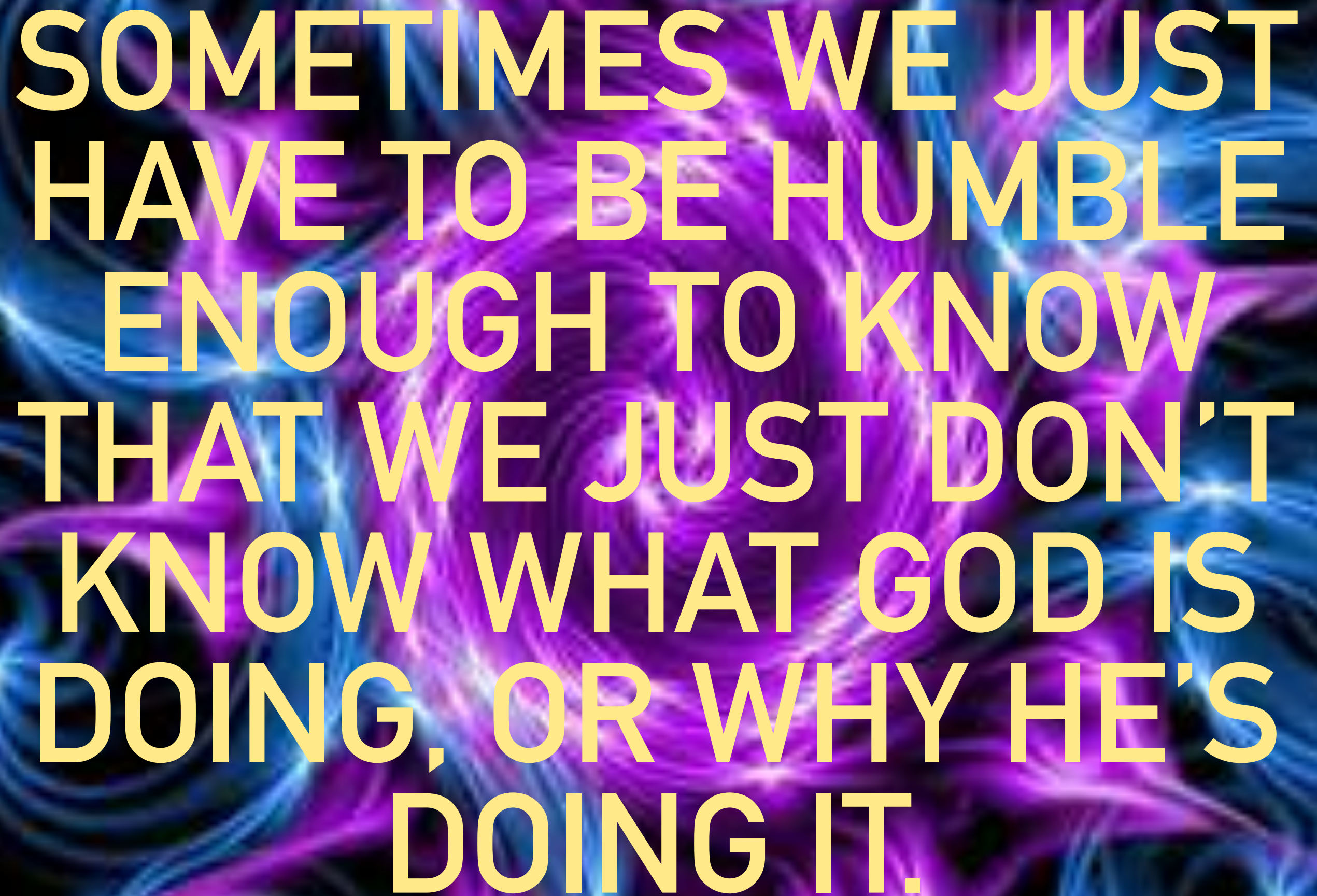
## Galatians 6:9

And let us not be weary  
in well doing: for in due  
season we shall reap, if  
we faint not.



**TROUBLE, TRIALS  
AND TRIBULATION  
TEACH US  
HUMILITY**





SOMETIMES WE JUST  
HAVE TO BE HUMBLE  
ENOUGH TO KNOW  
THAT WE JUST DON'T  
KNOW WHAT GOD IS  
DOING, OR WHY HE'S  
DOING IT.

**ISAIAH 55:8-9** “**FOR MY THOUGHTS ARE NOT YOUR THOUGHTS, NEITHER ARE YOUR WAYS MY WAYS,**” DECLARES THE LORD. “AS THE HEAVENS ARE HIGHER THAN THE EARTH, SO ARE MY WAYS HIGHER THAN YOUR WAYS AND MY THOUGHTS THAN YOUR THOUGHTS.”

**JEREMIAH 29:11** “FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU, DECLARES THE LORD, PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE.”

**PROVERBS 3:5 -6** “**TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART;** AND LEAN NOT UNTO YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING, IN ALL THY WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM AND HE WILL DIRECT THY PATH.



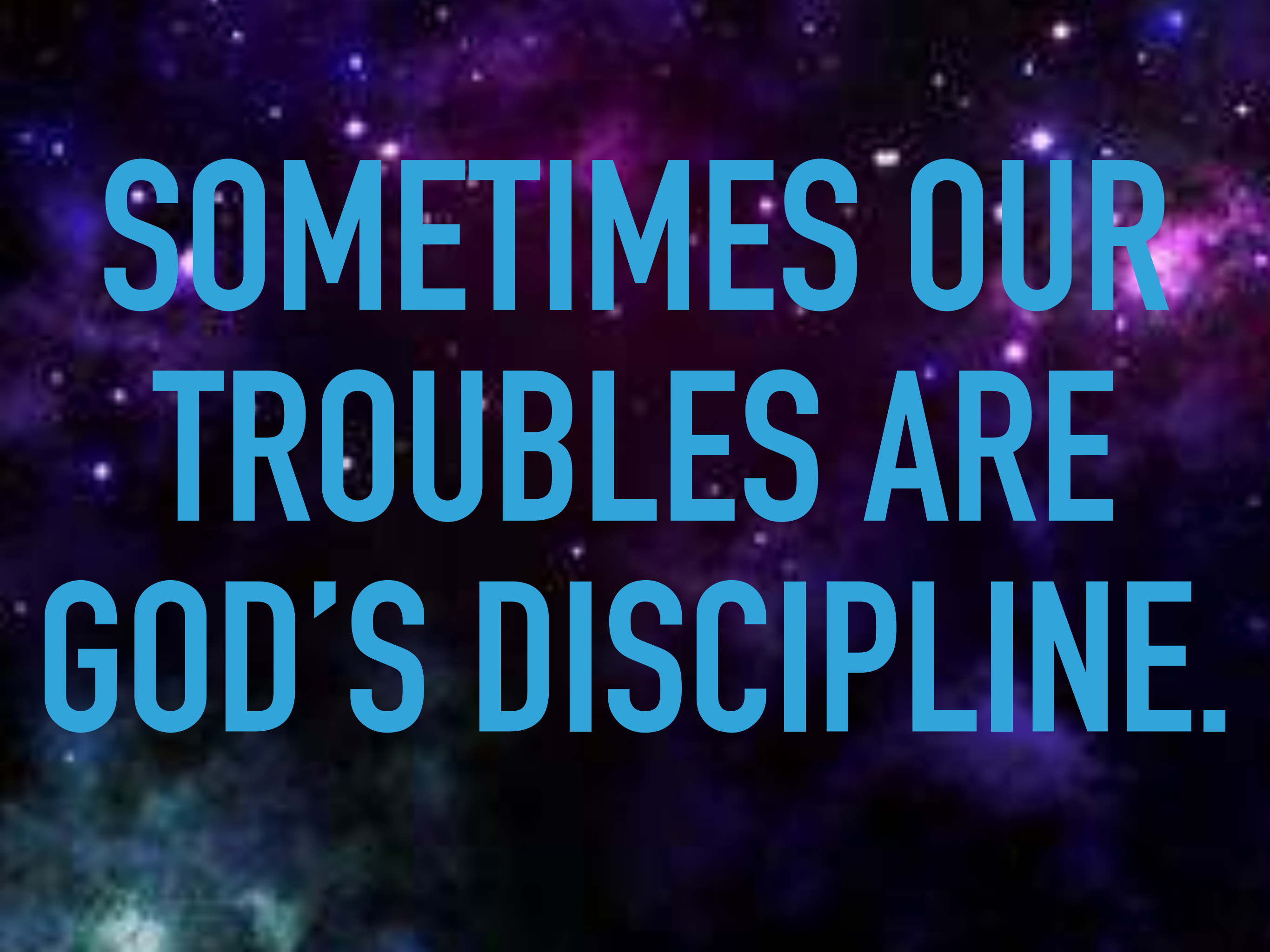
**7 AND LEST I SHOULD BE EXALTED ABOVE MEASURE THROUGH THE ABUNDANCE OF THE REVELATIONS, THERE WAS GIVEN TO ME A THORN IN THE FLESH, THE MESSENGER OF SATAN TO BUFFET ME, LEST I SHOULD BE EXALTED ABOVE MEASURE.**

**8 FOR THIS THING I BESOUGHT THE LORD THRICE, THAT IT MIGHT DEPART FROM ME.**

**9 AND HE SAID UNTO ME, MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR THEE: FOR MY STRENGTH IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS. MOST GLADLY THEREFORE WILL I RATHER GLORY IN MY INFIRMITIES, THAT THE POWER OF CHRIST MAY REST UPON ME.**

**10 THEREFORE I TAKE PLEASURE IN INFIRMITIES, IN REPROACHES, IN NECESSITIES, IN PERSECUTIONS, IN DISTRESSES FOR CHRIST'S SAKE:**

**FOR WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN AM I STRONG.**



**SOMETIMES OUR  
TROUBLES ARE  
GOD'S DISCIPLINE.**



**1 PETER 5:6–8** “**HUMBLE YOURSELVES,  
THEREFORE, UNDER GOD’S MIGHTY HAND,  
THAT HE MAY LIFT YOU UP IN DUE TIME.  
CAST ALL YOUR ANXIETY ON HIM BECAUSE  
HE CARES FOR YOU. BE ALERT AND OF  
SOBER MIND. YOUR ENEMY THE DEVIL  
PROWLs AROUND LIKE A ROARING LION  
LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO DEVOUR.”**

HEBREWS 12:5-11 “AND HAVE YOU COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN THIS WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT THAT ADDRESSES YOU AS A FATHER ADDRESSES HIS SON? IT SAYS, “**MY SON, DO NOT MAKE LIGHT OF THE LORD’S DISCIPLINE, AND DO NOT LOSE HEART WHEN HE REBUKES YOU, BECAUSE THE LORD DISCIPLINES THE ONE HE LOVES, AND HE CHASTENS EVERYONE HE ACCEPTS AS HIS SON.**” ENDURE HARDSHIP AS DISCIPLINE; GOD IS TREATING YOU AS HIS CHILDREN. FOR WHAT CHILDREN ARE NOT DISCIPLINED BY THEIR FATHER? IF YOU ARE NOT DISCIPLINED—AND EVERYONE UNDERGOES DISCIPLINE—THEN YOU ARE NOT LEGITIMATE, NOT TRUE SONS AND DAUGHTERS AT ALL. MOREOVER, WE HAVE ALL HAD HUMAN FATHERS WHO DISCIPLINED US AND WE RESPECTED THEM FOR IT. HOW MUCH MORE SHOULD WE SUBMIT TO THE FATHER OF SPIRITS AND LIVE! THEY DISCIPLINED US FOR A LITTLE WHILE AS THEY THOUGHT BEST; BUT GOD DISCIPLINES US FOR OUR GOOD, IN ORDER THAT WE MAY SHARE IN HIS HOLINESS. NO DISCIPLINE SEEMS PLEASANT AT THE TIME, BUT PAINFUL. LATER ON, HOWEVER, IT PRODUCES A HARVEST OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PEACE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN TRAINED BY IT.”

PROVERBS 3:11-13 “**MY CHILD, DO NOT REJECT THE LORD’S DISCIPLINE, AND DON’T GET ANGRY WHEN HE CORRECTS YOU. THE LORD CORRECTS THOSE HE LOVES, JUST AS PARENTS CORRECT THE CHILD THEY DELIGHT IN. HAPPY IS THE PERSON WHO FINDS WISDOM, THE ONE WHO GETS UNDERSTANDING.**”





**SOMETIMES OUR  
TROUBLES ARE GOD'S  
WAY OF GETTING OUR  
ATTENTION.**

## GENESIS 28:10-11& 20-22

10 AND JACOB WENT OUT FROM BEERSHEBA, AND WENT TOWARD HARAN.

11 AND HE LIGHTED UPON A CERTAIN PLACE, AND TARRIED THERE ALL NIGHT, BECAUSE THE SUN WAS SET; AND HE TOOK OF THE STONES OF THAT PLACE, AND PUT THEM FOR HIS PILLOWS, AND LAY DOWN IN THAT PLACE TO SLEEP.

20 AND JACOB VOWED A VOW, SAYING, IF GOD WILL BE WITH ME, AND WILL KEEP ME IN THIS WAY THAT I GO, AND WILL GIVE ME BREAD TO EAT, AND RAIMENT TO PUT ON,

21 SO THAT I COME AGAIN TO MY FATHER'S HOUSE IN PEACE; THEN SHALL THE LORD BE MY GOD:

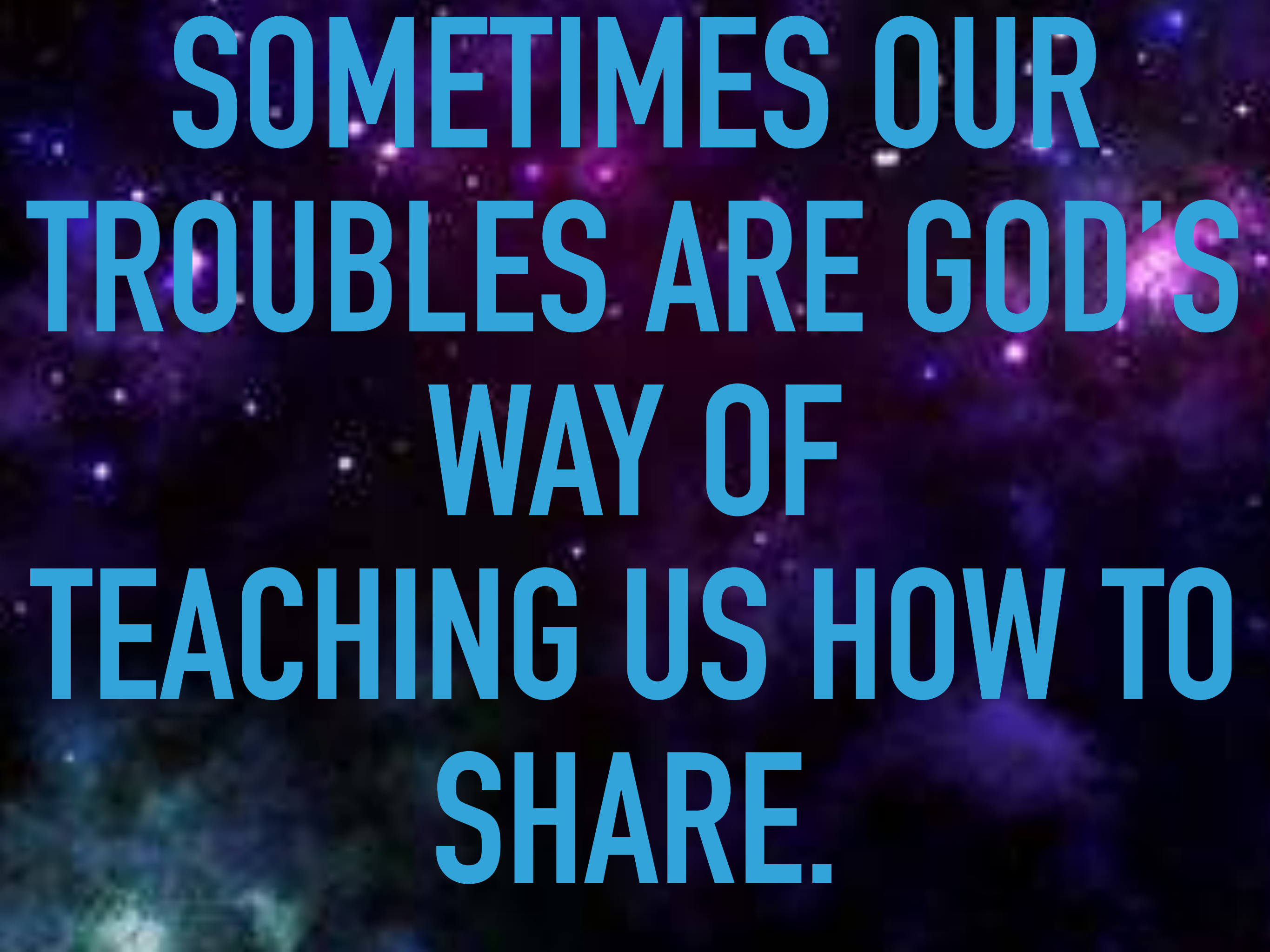
22 AND THIS STONE, WHICH I HAVE SET FOR A PILLAR, SHALL BE GOD'S HOUSE: AND OF ALL THAT THOU SHALT GIVE ME I WILL SURELY GIVE THE TENTH UNTO THEE.



**SOMETIMES OUR  
TROUBLES ARE GOD'S  
WAY OF PROTECTING  
US.**

PSALM 121:5-8 "THE LORD **GUARDS**  
YOU. THE LORD IS THE SHADE THAT  
**PROTECTS** YOU FROM THE SUN. THE  
SUN CANNOT HURT YOU DURING  
THE DAY, AND THE MOON CANNOT  
HURT YOU AT NIGHT. THE LORD  
WILL **PROTECT** YOU FROM ALL  
DANGERS; HE WILL **GUARD** YOUR  
LIFE. THE LORD WILL **GUARD** YOU  
AS YOU COME AND GO, BOTH NOW  
AND FOREVER."





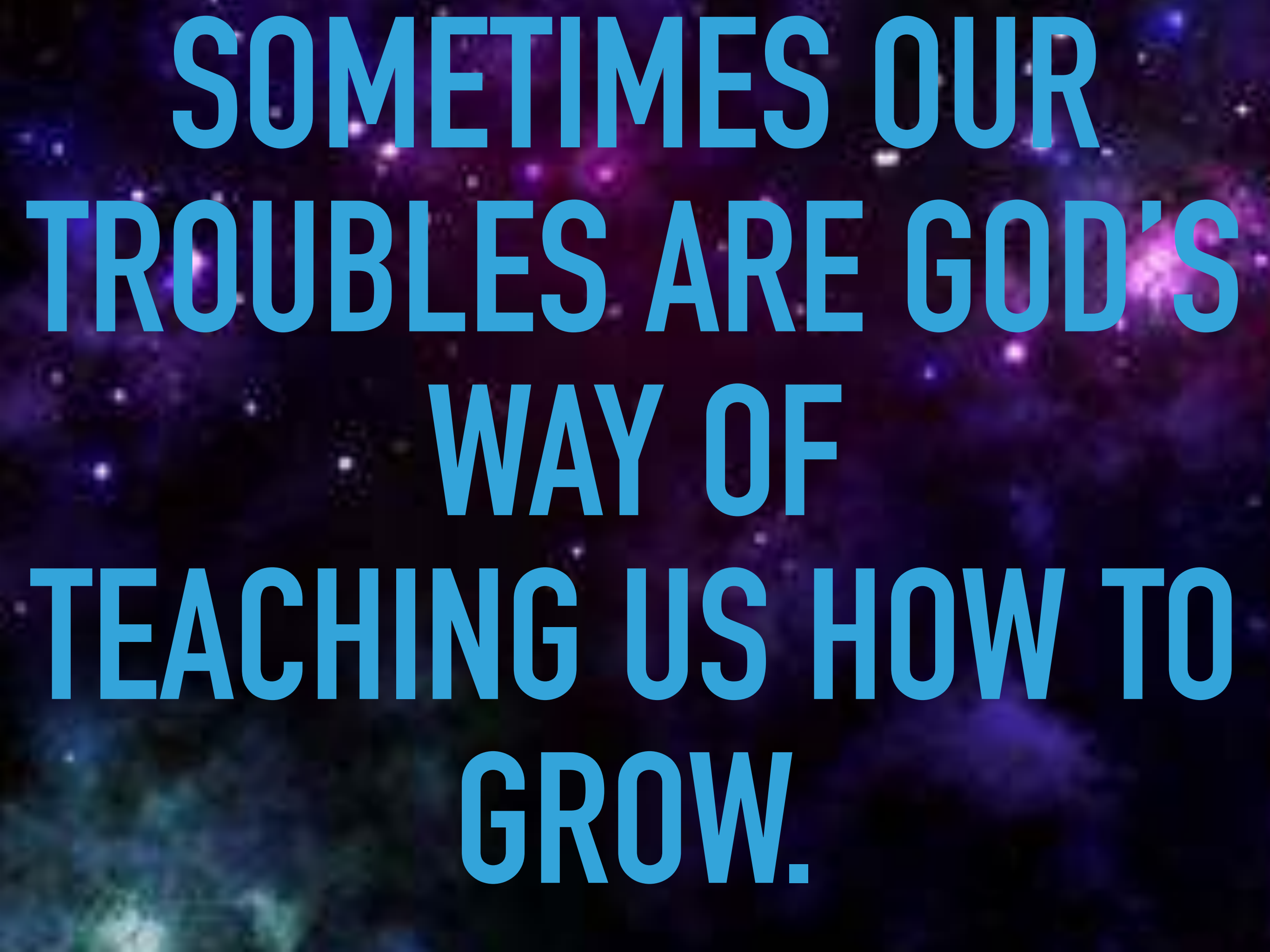
**SOMETIMES OUR  
TROUBLES ARE GOD'S  
WAY OF  
TEACHING US HOW TO  
SHARE.**

2 CORINTHIANS 1:5-7 "FOR JUST AS WE  
SHARE ABUNDANTLY IN THE SUFFERINGS  
OF CHRIST, SO ALSO OUR COMFORT  
ABOUNDS THROUGH CHRIST. IF WE ARE  
DISTRESSED, IT IS FOR YOUR COMFORT  
AND SALVATION; IF WE ARE COMFORTED, IT  
IS FOR YOUR COMFORT, WHICH PRODUCES  
IN YOU PATIENT ENDURANCE OF THE SAME  
SUFFERINGS WE SUFFER. AND OUR HOPE  
FOR YOU IS FIRM, BECAUSE WE KNOW  
THAT JUST AS YOU SHARE IN OUR  
SUFFERINGS, SO ALSO YOU SHARE IN OUR  
COMFORT."



2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4 "BLESSED BE THE  
GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS  
CHRIST, THE FATHER OF MERCIES AND GOD  
OF ALL COMFORT; WHO COMFORTETH US IN  
ALL OUR AFFLICTION, THAT WE MAY BE  
ABLE TO COMFORT THEM THAT ARE IN ANY  
AFFLICTION, THROUGH THE COMFORT  
WHEREWITH WE OURSELVES ARE  
COMFORTED OF GOD."

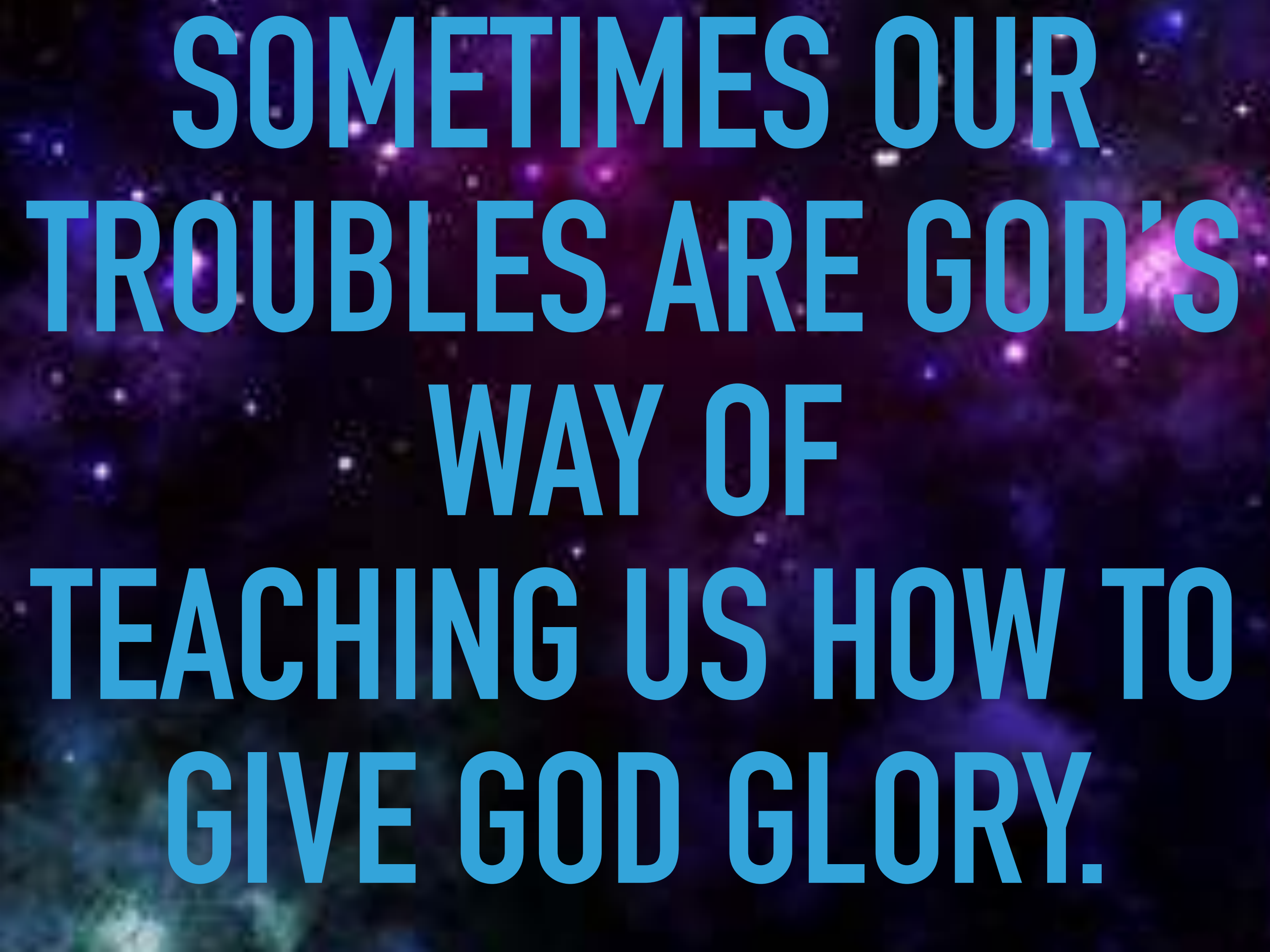
GALATIANS 6:2 "CARRY EACH OTHER'S  
BURDENS, AND IN THIS WAY YOU WILL  
FULFILL THE LAW OF CHRIST."



**SOMETIMES OUR  
TROUBLES ARE GOD'S  
WAY OF  
TEACHING US HOW TO  
GROW.**



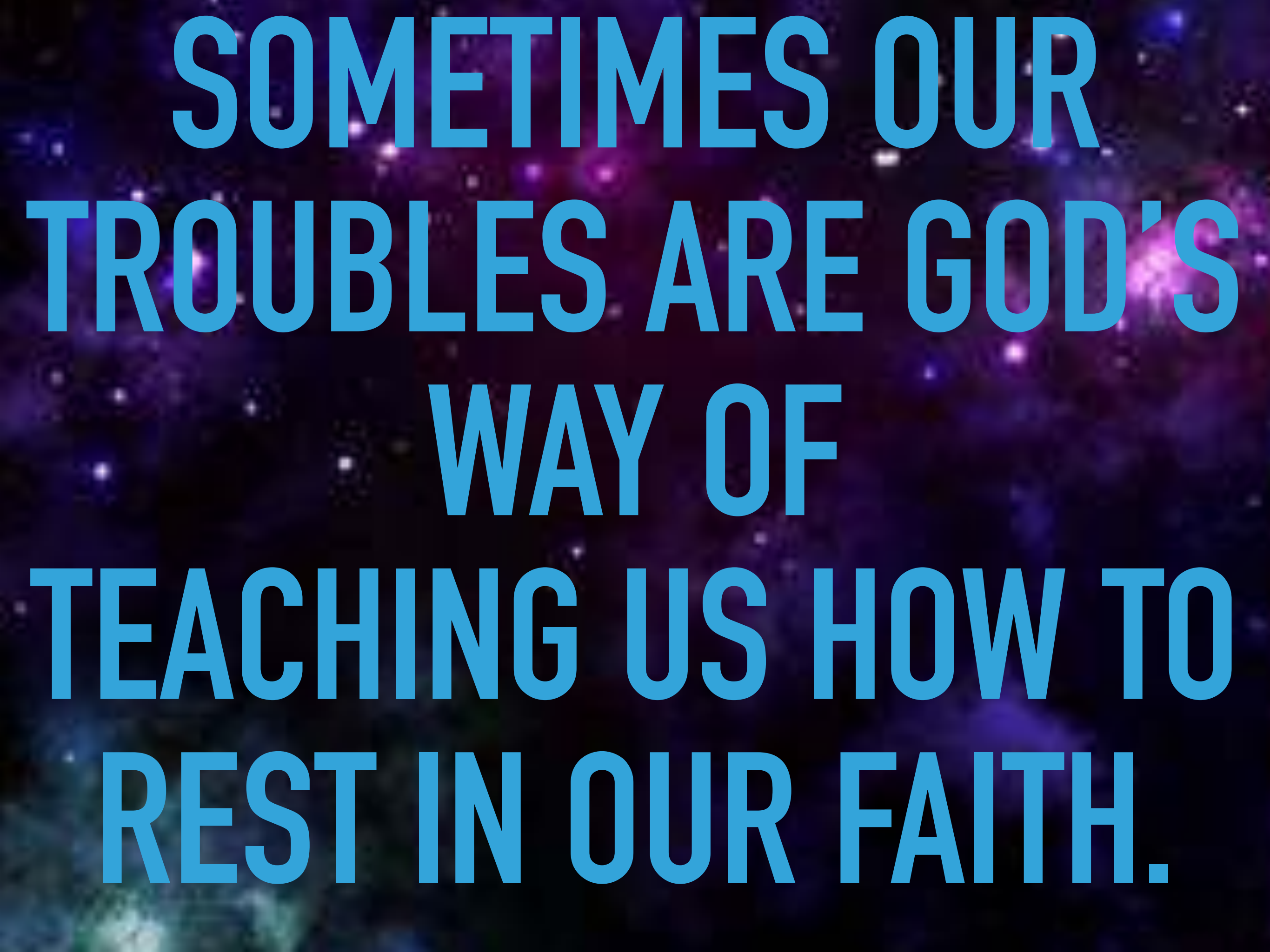
ROMANS 5:3-6 "NOT ONLY SO, BUT WE  
ALSO GLORY IN OUR SUFFERINGS,  
BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT SUFFERING  
PRODUCES PERSEVERANCE;  
PERSEVERANCE, CHARACTER; AND  
CHARACTER, HOPE. AND HOPE DOES NOT  
PUT US TO SHAME, BECAUSE GOD'S LOVE  
HAS BEEN POURED OUT INTO OUR HEARTS  
THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO HAS  
BEEN GIVEN TO US. YOU SEE, AT JUST THE  
RIGHT TIME, WHEN WE WERE STILL  
POWERLESS, CHRIST DIED FOR THE  
UNGODLY."



**SOMETIMES OUR  
TROUBLES ARE GOD'S  
WAY OF  
TEACHING US HOW TO  
GIVE GOD GLORY.**



PSALM 71:14-17 “AS FOR ME, I WILL ALWAYS HAVE HOPE; I WILL PRAISE YOU MORE AND MORE. MY MOUTH WILL TELL OF YOUR RIGHTEOUS DEEDS, OF YOUR SAVING ACTS ALL DAY LONG—THOUGH I KNOW NOT HOW TO RELATE THEM ALL. I WILL COME AND PROCLAIM YOUR MIGHTY ACTS, SOVEREIGN LORD; I WILL PROCLAIM YOUR RIGHTEOUS DEEDS, YOURS ALONE.”



**SOMETIMES OUR  
TROUBLES ARE GOD'S  
WAY OF  
TEACHING US HOW TO  
REST IN OUR FAITH.**



# FAITH through the FIRE

## **1 PETER 3:13-17 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> And who *is* he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, *you are* blessed. "*And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.*" <sup>15</sup> But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; <sup>16</sup> having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. <sup>17</sup> For *it is* better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.



## Joshua 24:15

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, **choose you this day whom ye will serve;** whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: **but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.**



# JAMES 1

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,

3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.

7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

9 Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation,

10 and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he





**SOMETIMES OUR  
TROUBLES ARE GOD'S  
WAY OF  
PREPARING US FOR  
OUR REWARD**



*Therefore we do not lose heart.*

*Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

*2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18*







# James 1:12

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Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

## REVELATION 6:9-11

9 AND WHEN HE HAD OPENED THE FIFTH SEAL, I SAW UNDER THE ALTAR THE SOULS OF **THEM THAT WERE SLAIN FOR THE WORD OF GOD**, AND FOR THE TESTIMONY WHICH THEY HELD:

10 AND THEY CRIED WITH A LOUD VOICE, SAYING, HOW LONG, O LORD, HOLY AND TRUE, DOST THOU NOT JUDGE AND AVENGE OUR BLOOD ON THEM THAT DWELL ON THE EARTH?

11 **AND WHITE ROBES WERE GIVEN UNTO EVERY ONE OF THEM;** AND IT WAS SAID UNTO THEM, THAT THEY SHOULD REST YET FOR A LITTLE SEASON, UNTIL THEIR FELLOW SERVANTS ALSO AND THEIR BRETHREN, THAT SHOULD BE KILLED AS THEY WERE, SHOULD BE FULFILLED.



**SOMETIMES OUR  
TROUBLES ARE GOD'S  
WAY OF  
REMINDING US TO SAY  
THANK YOU!**



1 CHRONICLES 16:34

GIVE THANKS TO THE  
LORD, FOR HE IS  
GOOD; HIS LOVE  
ENDURES FOREVER.

Give thanks to Him, bless His name.

For the LORD is good;

His lovingkindness is everlasting

And His faithfulness to all generations.

Ps 100:4–5

IN EVERYTHING.  
Give thanks  
FOR THIS IS THE  
will of God  
• CHRIST IN JESUS •  
for  
you  
1 THESSALONIANS 5:18