

LONE STAR FAITH

Men's Bible Study – Session 5

It happens again and again: I go through the most difficult circumstances imaginable, and come out on the other side with rock-solid, unshakable faith.

I wouldn't have signed up for it; I wouldn't choose to go through it again; and I wouldn't wish it on anybody else.

But God did something in the middle of those circumstances that I don't think He could have done any other way.

The fact is undeniable:

My faith is permanently impacted by these big, bad, bold, unexpected circumstances.

And that's not *accidental*; It's *intentional* on God's part.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Give a brief example from your life of an event or set of circumstances where you felt out of control.
2. Did you pray? Did you pray differently? Were you angry?
3. In your opinion, why is it so easy to factor God out of our lives when things are going good, and to question God when things are going bad?
4. Read James 1:2-4 – Trials test our faith, our confidence in God. What relationship do you see between difficult times and stronger faith?
5. Is the idea of God using human pain to strengthen your faith and confidence in Him a new concept for you?
6. If God uses difficult circumstances to build my faith in Him, what should my response be the next time life takes me by surprise?

God uses difficult and unexpected circumstances to impact our confidence in Him. Something happens in a person's faith that couldn't happen any other way.

James 1 tells us that the purpose of the testing of our faith, it creates and produces persevering faith in God. An unshakable confidence in Him if we allow Him to do so.

God is more interested in the growth of your faith, than in your comfort. When it feels like God is allowing something to happen TO me, it's easy to lose faith. But when I understand He is doing something IN me, I can endure it.

Difficult, unexpected things happen to everyone, but what shapes your response is the support you have around you during these experiences.

***This week – Commit yourself afresh to a community of believers. Stay in contact with each other this summer. Growing together in our faith is easier than by ourselves.**