



## Choices That Mature

2. To Endure: to stick to a prior decision at a later time when all of your emotions are in revolt -- to keep on keeping on.
  - a. "in God's disciplines" Heb. 12:1-14
    - share in His Holiness
    - yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness
  - b. "in adversity" II Cor. 12:9

Adversity can be our greatest motivation for spiritual growth or our deadliest means of discouragement. The difference depends on our understanding of God's purposes through adversity.

### God's Purposes for Allowing Adversity

1. God's way of getting our attention from "cares of the world".  
(IS. 9:13) (JER. 35:13-15)
2. God's way of assuring us of His love. (HEB. 12:6-7)
3. God's way of calling us to self-examination.  
(I COR. 11:31-32) (PS. 139:23-24)
4. God's way of conquering our pride. (PROV. 16:18 - 29:23) (James 4:6)
5. God's way of reminding us of our weakness apart from Him.  
(I COR. 1:26-29) (II COR. 12:7-10)
6. God's way of motivating us to cry out to Him. (PS. 34:17) (PS. 9:12)
7. God's way of reminding us of our spiritual warfare.  
(EPH. 6:11-18) (II COR. 10:3-5)
8. God's way of purifying our Faith. (I Peter 1:6-7) (James 1:3)
9. God's way of increasing our hatred of Evil. (PROV. 8:13)
10. God's way of reminding us to Pray. (I TIM. 2:1-2)



11. God's way of signaling to re-evaluate our Priorities.  
(PS. 107:17,19) (II COR. 4:18) conflict of living in 2 worlds.
  12. God's way of testing our works.  
(Matt. 7:24-27) (I COR. 3:13-15) (PS. 127:1)
  13. God's way of sifting our friendships. (PROV. 17:17) (II SAM. 1:26)
  14. God's way of getting us to identify with Christ Jesus.  
(GAL. 2:20) (ROM. 6-8)
  15. God's way of preparation to comfort others. (II COR. 1:35; 4:8-10, 12 & 16)
- Other important Scriptures: IS. 40:31 PHIL. 3:10

ADVERSITY DEFINED: trouble, affliction, opposition, pressure, chastening, anguish, testing or tribulation - it is greater than our abilities to resolve and it usually comes in multiples of several trials at once.