

# Enduring Trials God's Way Conference

Pastor Scott LaPierre

**Name of church or location**

## Schedule

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### Friday

- 7:00PM—Session 1: *Preparing for Trials*

### Saturday

- 9:30AM—Session 2: *Understanding Trials Versus Discipline*
- 10:30AM—Break
- 11:00AM—Session 3: *Proving Our Faith*
- 12:00PM—Lunch
- 1:30PM—Session 4: *God's Plan for Maturity*
- 2:30PM—Break
- 3:00PM—Session 5: *Becoming Better or Bitter*
- 4:00PM—Questions and Answers
- 5:00PM—Dinner

## Session 1: Preparing for Trials

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**Lesson 1:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Jam 1:2a; Acts 14:22; 1 Thes 3:3; 1 Pet 4:12-19; John 16:33).

**Lesson 2:** Trials are \_\_\_\_\_, but not accidents (Jam 1:2b; Rom 8:28; 1 Pet 1:6).

**Lesson 3:** A strong \_\_\_\_\_ is needed (Matt 7:24-27).

**Lesson 4:** Build during \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Chr 14:2-12).

**Lesson 5:** During the \_\_\_\_\_ “the Lord is [still] very compassionate and merciful” (Jam 5:11a).

**Lesson 6:** There’s an “\_\_\_\_\_ by the Lord” in trials (Jam 5:11b).

### Discussion Questions

1. Why should it be encouraging to remember God is in control while you are in the middle of a trial?
2. Have you been “building your walls” during times of peace? If yes, how? If not, how will you build in the future?
3. What daily trials do you experience that you need to be aware of, because of their potential to wear you down?
4. During trials, what characteristics of God can you focus on to help you better endure trials? Write down a verse (or two) to memorize that reveals this characteristic.
5. Unbelievers and some genuine believers ask, “Why would a loving God \_\_\_\_\_?” How would you answer this question, considering 1 Peter 3:15 says we must “always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks [for] a reason for the hope that is in” us?
6. When has God used a trial in your life to bring forth good? In other words, when have you been able to look back on a trial and see the end intended by the Lord?

## Session 2: *Understanding Trials Versus Discipline*

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**Lesson 1:** You didn't do \_\_\_\_\_ (Job 4:7 cf. Job 42:7; Luke 13:2-4; John 9:2-3).

**Lesson 2:** \_\_\_\_\_ trials and discipline (1 Pet 3:17).

**Lesson 3:** When disciplined be encouraged:

- (Part I) You are a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb 12:5-7).
- (Part II) You are in \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb 12:9-10; 2 Sam 24:12-14).
- (Part III) By \_\_\_\_\_ that can be produced (Heb 12:11).

**Lesson 4:** We \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ because we “put off” without “putting on” (Eph 4:25-32; Col 3:8, 12; Matt 12:43-45).

**Lesson 5:** Failed repentance produces “\_\_\_\_\_” (Jam 1:15).

### Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between discipline and a trial? How can you tell the two apart?
2. Have you experienced a trial and thought it was discipline, or discipline and thought it was a trial? Explain.
3. Provide examples of discipline you personally experienced, and discuss whether it produced repentance and fruit.
4. How can you be encouraged by receiving God's discipline?
5. Why do you think some people benefit from discipline, while others do not?
6. When experiencing discipline, what actions can you take to ensure you benefit from it?

## Message 3: *Proving Our Faith*

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**Lesson 1:** (Part I) Trials \_\_\_\_\_ our faith (Part II) and prove the \_\_\_\_\_ of it (Jam 1:2-3; 1 Pet 1:6-7; Isa 48:10):

- (Part III) To \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 13:5-6, 20-21; 1 John 2:19; Rev 3:1).
- (Part IV) To \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Pet 1:7).
- (Part V) To \_\_\_\_\_ (Psa 26:2, 139:23-24; Job 1:9-11, 2:5)

**Lesson 2:** Perseverance \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ perfection (Jam 5:11; Job 9:23, 21:4, 9, 17, 31:35-40, 32:1, 40:3-5, 42:1-6 cf. Job 2:10, 13:15).

### New Testament (Greek) words:

1. **“Trials”** in James 1:2 and 1 Peter 1:6 is *peirasmos*, occurring 21 times in the NT and it means: *“a trial, proving: adversity, affliction, trouble sent by God and serving to test or prove one’s character, faith, holiness.”*
2. **“Testing”** in James 1:3 and **“genuineness”** in 1 Peter 1:7 is *dokimion*, occurring only in these two verses and it means, *“the proving; that by which something is tried or proved, a test.”*

### Old Testament (Hebrew) words:

1. **“Tested”** or **“proved”** is *nacah*, occurring 36 times in the OT and it means, *“to test, try, prove, tempt, assay, put to the proof or test.”*
2. **“Know”** is *yada*, occurring 947 times in the OT and it means, *“to know”*, but it describes a very intimate knowledge. For example, “Genesis 4:1 Adam knew (*yada*) his wife, and she conceived.”

## Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important for God to test our faith?
2. How can it help your perspective of trials to view them as tests, versus viewing them as unfortunate circumstances?
3. Did you previously consider your faith as being “more precious than gold?” How has your view of your faith changed since hearing this message?
4. Describe hypothetical people who represent the “seed that fell on stony places.” What made them look like Christians before the trial? What changes took place during or after the trial that made them look unsaved?
5. Can you think of other Scriptural examples of people who experienced trials and proved the genuineness of their faith? What about individuals who proved their faith was not genuine?
6. How can Job’s example encourage us?

## Message 4: *God's Plan for Maturity*

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**Lesson 1:** (Part I) Trials produce \_\_\_\_\_ (Part II) that produces \_\_\_\_\_ (Part III) in \_\_\_\_\_ of our lives (Jam 1:3-4 cf. Heb 5:12-6:1; 2 Thes 1:3-4; Rom 5:3-4).

**Lesson 2:** \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ go hand-in-hand.

**Lesson 3:** Trials bring us into the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Lesson 4:** \_\_\_\_\_ trials as \_\_\_\_\_ because of what they produce (Jam 1:2; 1 Pet 1:6).

**Lesson 5:** \_\_\_\_\_ determines how we view trials (2 Cor 4:17-18).

**Lesson 6:** \_\_\_\_\_ is our \_\_\_\_\_ in trials (Heb 12:2).

### Discussion Questions

1. How do we demonstrate patience during trials that allows others to see Christ in us?
2. How do you typically respond to trials? Is your reaction based on your earthly comforts or heavenly gain?
3. Discuss trials in your life and how God used them to help produce patience, mature you, shape your character, and/or strengthen your faith.
4. Discuss trials you would describe as “God bringing you into the deep end.” In other words, they stretched, scared, and/or challenged you.
5. Like Christ, what can you do to focus “on the joy set before you” as you endure trials? In other words, what can you do to “count it all joy” when enduring trials?
6. How do trials help us become more like Christ?

## Message 5: *Becoming Better or Bitter*

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**Lesson 1:** We \_\_\_\_\_ to “\_\_\_\_\_” trials make us better instead of bitter (Jam 1:4; Job 2:9-10).

**Lesson 2:** \_\_\_\_\_ let trials make him \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Sam 15:13-14, 16:5-14).

**Lesson 3:** \_\_\_\_\_ let trials make him \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Chr 14:2, 16:10-12).

**Lesson 4:** Be \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ hands (Jer 18:1-5 cf. Jer 17:23, 19:1, 10; Isa 45:9, 64:8; 2 Cor 4:7; Gen 2:7; Job 4:19, 10:9; Ecc 1:9; Rom 9:19-21; 2 Tim 2:20-21).

### Discussion Questions

1. Discuss times you became bitter, or were severely tempted to become bitter, toward God during a trial.
2. What does it mean to “embrace” a trial?
3. In what ways have you turned from God when you experienced a trial?
4. What is the common temptation we face during trials, and why do we face it?
5. Can you think of other examples in Scripture of people who became bitter during trials?
6. Can you think of other examples in Scripture of people who became better during trials?

## About the Speaker

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Scott LaPierre and his wife, Katie, grew up together in McArthur, California, and they have been blessed with seven children. After college, Scott served as an Army officer before becoming an elementary school teacher.

While teaching, Scott began working part time as an associate pastor at Grace Baptist Church in Lemoore, California. When the church grew, he was hired full time and remained there until becoming the senior pastor of Woodland Christian Church in Woodland, Washington, in 2010. He enjoys spending time with both his home and church families and studying and teaching God's Word.

You can contact Pastor Scott, learn more about him, or subscribe to his newsletter at the following:

- Email: [scott@scottlapierre.org](mailto:scott@scottlapierre.org)
- Website: [www.scottlapierre.org](http://www.scottlapierre.org)
- Facebook: @ScottLaPierreAuthor
- YouTube: @ScottLaPierre
- Twitter: @PastorWCC

### Would you (or your church) like to host an Enduring Trials God's Way Conference?

- **Schedule**—Typically there is one session on Friday evening and four sessions on Saturday, but there is flexibility.
- **Outreach**—Consider viewing the conference as an outreach to share Christ with your community. Pastor Scott can run a Facebook ad, and/or set up a Facebook event page for those in the church to share with others.
- **Compensation**—Scott is thankful to be compensated by having copies of his book purchased for those attending.