

**P511**

**Grace Notes Radio Program**

**SERIES: Why trials?**

**SET 11: The Big Picture**

**SONGS: I offer My life**

**Change my heart**

**INTRO: Welcome to “Grace Notes”. Barbara Sandbek has been talking about trials, as they relate to building our character. Today, she’ll conclude this series, with a personal assessment of why trials occur and how God uses them to help us ‘work out’ our salvation. We’ll see the benefits we can receive as we allow ourselves to be clay in the Potter’s hands.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**\*\*\* CHANGE MY HEART \*\*\* 2:11**

\*\*\*\*\*

.....  
**I received an e-mail from a Believer who wasn’t experiencing the joy of his salvation. He questioned many things most of us have thought but have never verbalized. I drafted a reply and prayed constantly as I wrote. A few hours later, he called to say that it was just what he needed. Praise God. I realized that there must be many people in the same position, so I want to take this time to tell you what I wrote. Maybe it’s what you need, too. Here’s the response...**

**God created us for fellowship with Him. Animals can’t reason like we can. We’re made in God’s image and likeness. His image is His 3-part personhood like our body/soul/spirit, and His likeness is His character, often referred to as His Glory. We are made for eternity.**

**Eve’s decision to choose to know evil (Satan) over just the knowledge of good (God), brought sin into the human race. And with it came the things that evil brings...fear of death, hate, anger...consequences - physical death. But what we perceive to be the curse of death, in reality, was a blessing, because had we been able to physically live eternally, we’d have no chance to be with God in Heaven – we’d be stuck in this sin-filled world forever. At the point where Adam and Eve sided with Satan, God could have removed Himself from the scene and allowed only evil to reign, but He didn’t. He still desires fellowship**

**with us (Luke 19:10) and shows us Himself through creation (Romans 1:20) and His Word.**

**God's desire is to give us back His likeness, or glory, that we lost because of sin. Sure it's not our fault Eve sinned, but God made the way for us to regain the glory (Rom. 3:23). Yes, God knew we would sin, too, but He knew He could restore the fellowship through His Son, so it was worth it to create us.**

**The penalty for our sin is eternal death – with only evil present, but Christ died and rose again to pay that penalty and remove our sin, so we can be with the Father. It's the greatest love story ever told.**

**God so LOVED the world that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. This verse says we're not hideous in God's sight. He loves US – though he hates the SIN in us. No wonder – it thwarts His efforts for our best.**

**I realized not long ago that asking God to forgive you of your sin and save you isn't really what He's looking for. Ultimately that's what our prayer boils down to, but the real issue is that we admit that we need and want Him in our lives, and that we're willing to walk in His right way. Sin is anything we do apart from God's will for us. God's will is good, perfect and pleasing. Walking in it sets us free to be all He created us to be – it's there that we find our ROOTS.**

**We are seen as RIGHTEOUS in His sight, not sinners, when we're saved. Romans 5:8 says that God commended His LOVE toward us in that while we were YET sinners, (meaning we're not once we believe), Christ died for us. He took our sin and suffered its shame so that we'd be FREE to be slaves of righteousness, rather than slaves to sin. We're given the POWER to say 'no' to evil because of the Holy Spirit in us. Sure we sin, but it doesn't have to be a life-style.**

**God gives us a conscience, to help us distinguish good from evil. When we're saved, the Holy Spirit convicts, but once we forsake our sin, He comforts. The opposite is true of Satan – he convicts and condemns.**

**As a Believer, God has forgiven you as far as the east is from the west. You're a child of the King – you're royalty – and don't forget it. He's seated you positionally in the Heavenly realms. And He has a wonderful**

**plan for your entire life that will satisfy you, should you choose to seek it. He's building a mansion for you even now. In fact, all He does, He does for you.**

**You're not a number. Isaiah 43:1 says He knows your name. He's redeemed you with a high price. He knows the number of hairs on your head and He knows your tears. How much more personal a God could you want?**

**God imparts salvation IN us but tells us in Philippians 2:13 to 'work it OUT'. 2 Peter 1:3-10 shows how God wants us to recoup the glory. It says...**

**His Divine Power (Holy Spirit) has given us EVERYTHING we NEED for LIFE and GODLINESS – through our KNOWLEDGE of Him who CALLED US by His own Glory and goodness. Through these He has given us His very GREAT and PRECIOUS PROMISES, so that through them, you may participate in the Divine nature and escape the CORRUPTION in the world caused by EVIL DESIRE.**

**For this very reason, MAKE EVERY EFFORT to ADD to your faith, VIRTUE, and to virtue, KNOWLEDGE, and to knowledge, SELF-CONTROL, and to self-control, PERSERVERENCE, and to perseverance, GODLINESS, and to godliness, BROTHERLY KINDNESS, and to brotherly kindness, LOVE.**

**IF YOU POSSESS these qualities in INCREASING MEASURE, they will keep you from being INEFFECTIVE and UNPRODUCTIVE in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But, if anyone does not have them, he is NEARSIGHTED and BLIND, and has**

**FORGOTTEN that HE HAS BEEN CLEANSED FROM HIS PAST SINS. Therefore, be all the MORE EAGER, TO MAKE YOUR CALLING and ELECTION sure. FOR IF YOU DO THESE THINGS...**

**YOU WILL NEVER FALL!**

**And you will receive a RICH WELCOME into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

**You can't be a fence sitter and expect to be at peace. If you aren't making every effort to ADD to your faith the qualities mentioned, then your faith will wane and you'll be in constant torment wondering if you're saved or good or whatever. It takes time to build these things into your life. You can't cop out every time a trial comes.**

**You do yourself an injustice by not pursuing the things that a King's Kid should. You can't live on emotions. Faith is not a feeling. That**

**makes God seem good to us only when things are going 'good'. We don't choose to serve God because we feel like it – we do it because that's what we're called to do. It's what we're made for. The sooner you accept that fact the better off you'll be.**

**The thing we need to remember is that we are not of this world – we're of another Kingdom. We're just passing through, doing a job for our Father and soon we'll be spending a lot more time in that peaceful, sinless land. And THERE we'll be happy. God never said we'd be happy here. In fact, he said that should we choose to follow Christ we'll suffer. The world didn't accept Christ, and they're not likely to accept His disciples. It's a tough calling - you'll falter unless you have ETERNITY in view!**

**My prayer for you is that you'll seek God, just to know Him, not for what you can get. Study His Word. Talk to Him and tell Him exactly how you feel. And do what He tells you to do – one step at a time. Walking with the Lord will ultimately give you the greatest satisfaction.**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**\*\*\* I OFFER MY LIFE \*\*\***  
\*\*\*\*\*

**You've been listening to "Grace Notes". Thanks for joining the program. If this program has blessed you, please write and tell us at Sandbek Ministries P.O. Box 581 Fallston, MD 21047 or email us through our web site at [www.gracenotesradio.com](http://www.gracenotesradio.com).**

**In order for us to stay on this station, we need to hear from you, so please write.**

**Join us again on our next program. Until then, let your grace notes be a song of praise!**