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"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." 1 Corinthians 10:13

Mathematics demands that a student master elementary concepts before learning how to solve more complex problems. The whole educational process is built on the idea that we must pass the test before moving on to new information. Before a high school student graduates, it's imperative that he makes the grade.

In God's Bible school, it's certain we will be tested. God places all of His children in trying circumstances sometimes. These tests are "common to man." That means we're not the first to find ourselves in a tight place. Watchman Nee said, "You will never learn anything new about God except through adversity." Trials are God's way of making us grow up. Often it's the furnace of affliction that accelerates our growth in grace.

God is grooming a bride for His Son. The Bible refers to us as the bride of Christ. The bride is without spot, wrinkle, and blemish. That means the Lord has a lot of work to do in order to make the bride ready for His Son. Adversity is the divine sandpaper God uses to smooth out the saints. Temptations, trials, and tribulations are the means God uses to grow us up.

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy" (1 Peter 4:12-13). We must remember two truths about adversity. God permits it and limits it. It's neither unusual nor strange; it's to be expected and even welcomed. Hardships are part of the curriculum in Hallelujah Academy or God's Bible School.

It is said that most men are "born crying, live complaining, and die disappointed." But God wants better from us! When difficulties come, we need to view them as tests. If we respond properly, we'll pass the test. If we fail, we need to take the test over!