

# THRIVING IN THE MIDST OF ADVERSITIES

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Job 42:1-5

Soren Kierkegaard, a Danish theologian, and philosopher once said, “**Life is lived forward; but it is only understood backward**.” Can you look back to certain situation and season where you prematurely label it a ‘burden’ when you are in the middle of it; but call it a ‘blessing’ when you get on the other side of it. Job gives us three principles we can adopt in order to thrive in the midst of adversities.

1. **WEEP** – Job was honest about his losses. Faith doesn’t deny reality. Faith believes Jesus to change it. We need to acknowledge and bring to Jesus our frustration, pain, disappointment, discouragement. One of my favourite books is Psalm because of its authenticity. How we talk to God says a lot about how we see Him. And David’s transparency and vulnerability is an indication that he saw God as a non-judgemental loving person. An example is this: Since You know my thoughts from afar off You have no problem with me expressing what You already know.
2. **WEED** out – Because he has some friends who are well intended but very misguided. Like Job we have to weed out all the negative, misguided advice. Remember, **satan had no authority or dominion where he had no agreement**. So, don’t agree with the lies he throws at you.
3. **WORSHIP** – Psalm 8:2 reminds us - “Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.” Here we see that worship is an act of spiritual warfare. Because worship establishes a stronghold or fortress of mindset. Worship requires us to rid off from our mind those things that are not of God and filling our mind with things that are of Christ. In this way, our foe and avenger – the negative voices of condemnation, doubt, anxiety, discouragement - are silenced when we worship.

Let us be reminded of the LORD’s promise in Psalm 92:12 - “The righteous shall **flourish** like a **palm tree**...” Have you ever seen a palm tree in the midst of a great storm? That tree may be bent so far over that it’s almost touching the ground, but when the wind finally stops, that palm tree bounces right back up. What’s interesting is that when it is bent over by the strong winds, research shows that the extreme stretching is strengthening the root system and giving it new opportunities for growth. In the same way, the LORD will turn your adversities to make you stronger, wiser, more alive, and you are headed for victory as you learn do what Job did: **Weep ... Weed ... Worship**.

## Making It Personal:

1. **Insight** – What is ONE new insight the Holy Spirit has given me?
2. **Conviction** - Something pierced my heart or convicted me? Take action now!
3. **Share** - Received something I want to share with someone else?