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HIGHWAY DELIVERANCE CHURCH, INTL.

APOSTLE HUGHES

MARCH 2017

THE PURPOSE OF BEING IN A NET

SERMON SCRIPTURES

Psalm 66:8-20

Psalm 20:3-4

Revelation 21:18-21

Zechariah 4:6

Galatians 6:14

Galatians 2:20

John 12:24

Ecclesiastics 7:8

As Believer's in the Body of Christ, we must keep our Faith anchored in Christ finished work on the Cross. It's the moments when we are discouraged, weary, or anxious that we begin to question God and doubt Him.

We may say to God "God, Why is this happening to me?" or "When will this end?" How do you

think He must feel to hear this? The reason we act this way is because we're in a net.

A net means to cover, screen, or enclose. The purpose of being in a net, and why God brings each of us into a net is for various reasons, but one main reason is to refine us (see Psalm 66:10-12).

God knows what it takes for each of us to surrender to Him, to grow spiritually, and to increase our faith.

As each of our tests vary in severity and duration, one thing that is common, when our tests gets rough we tend to look for the easy way out. We at times try to bribe God, make vain promises (vows), succumb to self-pity, and even compromise.

He knows when to bring us out of each test, at the right time.

We have to know that inspite of it all, God is for us! He knows when to bring us out of each test, at the right time—on His time (see Hebrews 12:11, Isaiah 55:8-9). God is after each of us to grow in Grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (see 2 Peter 3:18).

We must choose to die to self, refuse to please our flesh; and to abide in Christ. God wants each of us to grow up and be strong in Him!

The only way to do this, is to go through our tests, and through the net, surrendering to Him wholeheartedly.

If we choose to stop running from God, and stop rebelling against Him and His Will; and in turn surrender to Him, He will show us the plans He has for us (see **Jeremiah 29:11**, **1 Corinthians 2:9**).

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As we go through our tests, we must be careful not to blame God and others—we must look at ourselves first (see **2 Corinthians 13:5**). Some of the tests we've brought upon ourselves. How? Because of our disobedience to God.

No matter what comes against us in our walk with God, we must make up in our minds to go through our tests! We must know that the trying of our faith works patience (see **James 1:3**). Great faith must be tested greatly!

God proves us as silver is refined (see **Psalm 66:10**). All that we're going through, it can draw us closer to God if we allow it too. At time affliction is necessary in order to bring us to be at the place where we should be in Christ.

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For God knows why He takes each of us the way that He is—we must be steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord (see **1 Corinthians 15:58**).

God wants to bring us to a higher place in Him (see **Zechariah 4:6**), but the only way we can get there is if we surrender our all to Him.

We must be crucified to the world, and the world crucified to us (see **Galatians 6:14**).

Stand strong against the wiles of the enemy, do not give in into the pressures of the world's system nor serve their false gods.

We must understand that with each test we're in, as we go through them, we will grow stronger. Additionally, we'll be able to tell others our testimonies; and about the greatness and goodness of God (see **Luke 22:31-32**). At the end we will appreciate all that God has brought us through.

Moreover, be encouraged in The Lord! Although you may be discouraged and hurt in your tests, we must remember that its all working together for our good. God sees all of our sacrifices and offerings, "*Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit*" (**Ecclesiastics 7:8**).

YOUR PRAYER TO GOD

By the Grace of God, I will go through my tests without grumbling or complaining to God. Instead I will praise and worship Him, offering sacrifices of praise from the fruit of my lips. Knowing that the trying of my faith is working patience in me; and God always causes me to triumph.

In Jesus name. Amen.