

Evaluating God's Character Development

List the difficult situation: _____

Rate 1=low- 10=high	Evaluate how God <u>may</u> be using your difficulty to accomplish the following:	
	Is the difficulty of this circumstance a reminder of my weaknesses and need of God and others?	"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong." 2 Cor 12:9-10
	Is God using this situation to call me to self-examination of my life in relationship to God and others?	"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts." Psalm 139:23 "But let every man examine himself." 1 Cor 11:28
	Is this situation God's way of dealing with my pride?	"When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom." Prov 11:2 "Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice." Prov 13:10 "But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves, then, to God." James 4:6-7
	Is God using this circumstance to get my attention and keep my focus on Him?	"This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways." Haggai 1:7 "But I have spoken to you again and again, yet you have not obeyed me." Jer 35:14

	<p>Is this situation forcing me to cry out to God for his help and wisdom?</p>	<p>"The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles." Psalm 34:17 If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us." 2 Chron 20:9 "Men cry out under a load of oppression; they plead for relief from the arm of the powerful." Job 35:9 "I cry out to God Most High, to God, who fulfills his purpose for me." Psalm 57:2</p>
	<p>Is God using this as His method of purifying my faith (taking out certain things and replacing them with good things)?</p>	<p>"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed." 1 Peter 1:6-7</p>
	<p>Is God testing the quality of my life (a life lived according to balanced Biblical priorities)?</p>	<p>"It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved." 1 Cor 3:14-15</p>
	<p>Is God preparing me for comforting and helping others?</p>	<p>"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows." 2 Cor 1:3-5</p>
	<p>Is God allowing me to go through this situation that I may glorify Him by my response to difficulty?</p>	<p>"Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him... Indeed, this will turn out for my deliverance." Job 13:15-16</p>

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Listed below are several important character qualities. Evaluate how God is using this situation to build these into your life:

Rate 1=low - 10=high	CHARACTER QUALITY	BASIC DEFINITION
	FAITH vs. <i>DISOBEDIENCE</i>	Having trust and reliance in God and demonstrating obedience to the Word of God.
	HOPE vs. <i>DISCOURAGEMENT</i>	Having confidence that God is in control and will work all things out for my good and His glory.
	LOVE vs. <i>SELFISHNESS</i>	Giving to others needs without expecting anything in return.
	PATIENCE vs. <i>IRRITABILITY</i>	Accepting and responding correctly to difficult situations from God as a normal part of the Christian life.
	HUMILITY vs. <i>PRIDE</i>	Realizing that any good in my life is the result of the common or special grace of God.
	RESPONSIBILITY vs. <i>UNRELIABILITY</i>	Knowing and doing what both God and others are expecting from me.
	FORGIVENESS vs. <i>RESENTMENT</i>	Responding to offenses from others as being allowed by God; and taking the Biblical steps to deal with these offenses.
	SELF-CONTROL vs. <i>SELF-INDULGENCE</i>	Instant obedience in doing what is right before God in the midst of specific and often difficult situations.

	<p>PEACE vs. <i>ANXIETY</i></p>	Structuring my life around that which is eternal and cannot be destroyed or taken away.
	<p>GENTLENESS vs. <i>ANGER</i></p>	Yielding my personal rights and expectations to God.
	<p>DETERMINATION vs. <i>FAINT-HEARTED</i></p>	Purposing to accomplish what God expects in His time regardless of the difficulty.
	<p>ENDURANCE vs. <i>GIVING UP</i></p>	The inward strength to withstand stress and keep going to accomplish God's best.
	<p>JOY vs. <i>SELF-PITY</i></p>	An inner radiance that results from being in genuine harmony with God and others.
	<p>KINDNESS vs. <i>INDIFFERENCE</i></p>	Investing whatever is necessary to heal the hurts of others.
	<p>GOODNESS vs. <i>IMPURITY</i></p>	The moral character that I demonstrate in my life in obedience to God's Word.
	<p>GENTLENESS vs. <i>HARSHNESS</i></p>	Expressing personal care appropriate to another's need.
	<p>DILIGENCE vs. <i>SLOTHFULNESS</i></p>	Visualizing each task as a special assignment from the Lord and using all my energies to accomplish it.
	<p>TOLERANCE vs. <i>PREJUDICE</i></p>	Acceptance of others where they are without demanding immediate change.
	<p>GRATEFULNESS vs. <i>UNTHANKFULNESS</i></p>	Making known to God and others what ways they have benefited my life.
	<p>FAIRNESS vs. <i>PARTIALITY</i></p>	Looking at a situation from the viewpoint of each person involved.