

Homeschooling Through Hardship

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1. Every Kind of Hardship

How we respond to hardship will determine whether we will stand or fall in homeschooling and in life.

“O our God . . . we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee. And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children” (2 Chron. 20:12).

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

Why Hardships?

- We live in a fallen world
- We are in training for something in the future, or compassion/comfort for others
- Tribulation works **patience** and patience and other fruits of the Spirit
- God wants to show **His glory** in a mighty way
- We are reaping something we’ve sown
- We are being disciplined by a Good Father
- We have enemies: the world; the flesh; the devil
- Closer fellowship with Christ – Philippians 3:8-11
- Can’t pin a reason on it, so we are asked to completely trust God blindfolded. He is trustworthy.
“. . . that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings”

Hard things are not a reflection of who you are, but they can be a **reflection of who God is in you.**

Hebrews 5:8; Luke 6:40; Ephesians 6:10-18

Though our hardship may not change; our **mindset** about them can, and we can find peace!

“You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You” (Isaiah 26:3).

Hard Things Can Be Spirit-Led

In Matthew 4:1, we see the Spirit *led* Jesus into the wilderness.

Follow Him there. Everything meant to tear us down, can be built up through Him.

2. Biblical Encouragement

Our Weapons

Prayer – essential to body soul and spirit,

Colossians 4:2 “Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”

Forgiveness – essential to release of bitterness

Meditation and Memorization of God’s Word

Survival Mode v. Revival Mode

Abraham (Hebrews 11:17-19); Joseph (Genesis 50:20); Peter (John 6:68-69); Paul (Acts 14)

“We homeschool through hardship by homeschooling through worship!”

- Worship because He has the words of eternal life (2 Peter 1:3)
- Worship because He is with us (Psalm 46)
- Worship because He makes all things new (Revelation 21:5)
- Worship because He will be glorified in us (Isaiah 61:3)

2 Cor. 4:16-18 “For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far

more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

3. Personal Stories

2001 – 2011 Overwhelm, birth stories, death, flood, rebel, spiritual depression

2012 - 2022 Prodigal, move, RA diagnosis

"Be not afraid, only believe" (Mark 5:36).

4. Practical Homeschooling

- Mission Statement
- Create checklists
- Three most important subjects; three chores
- Allow creative or quiet, productive play (so you can rest)
- Use audio books, documentaries, or read-alouds while they play, craft, or draw
- Pray with the children every day and share what you read in the Bible
- Take a needed mental or physical break
- Take whatever time necessary for all to engage in Scripture memorization
- Make use of online learning, smart apps, and educational games
- Let them choose what they will study for the day and give a summary
- Accept help wherever possible
- Be flexible and present
- Make Crisis Packs, or "To Go" Packs, for each child
- Simplify

Isaiah 30:15 "In returning and rest you shall be saved; In quietness and confidence shall be your strength. But you would not."

What Will They Learn?

- Character and service and patience that they won't learn in academics
- They will learn to worship and not worry - by your example.
- You will teach them self-control as you exercise godly restraint over your emotions.
- You can teach joyful obedience in what you suffer. This lesson will last them a lifetime.
- They will learn Who to turn to in their own crisis in life.
- Important caretaking, compassion, and life skills.
- Godliness and contentment (remember great gain!)

3 John 1:4

Before You Say, "I Quit!"

"The devil will always want you to quit what God called you to start."

Even in the midst of the storms of life, don't give up. Refocus on Christ's wisdom and power, and say, as Peter said, *"Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing . . . nevertheless at Your word, I will."* (Luke 5:5).