

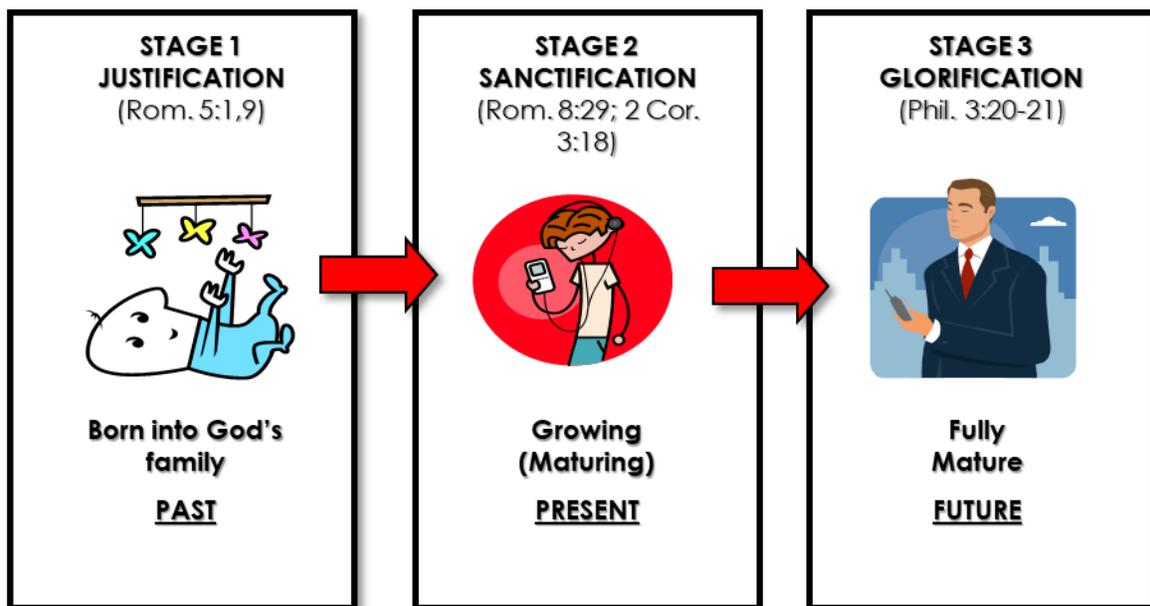
TRANSFORMED



PART 3: THROUGH TRIALS

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A. THE THREE STAGES OF SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION



B. EVER BEEN ANGRY AT GOD?



Have you ever been angry at God for allowing a crisis to come into your life that you feel you didn't deserve? Have you ever felt that you couldn't be honest with others who asked you how you were doing? Have you ever been frustrated with God when you couldn't figure out what he was trying to teach you during a difficult time? Why are God's tests sometimes so difficult?

C. KEY PASSAGES

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." (Jas. 1:2-4 NIV)

"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him." (Jas. 1:12 NIV)

"Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering." (2 Thess. 1:4-5 NIV)

"In all 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 the proven genuineness of your faith-- of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire-- may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed." (1 Pet. 1:6-7 NIV)

D. KEY WORDS

Using the words below, circle them in the above verses. Notice their context.

- **Trial** means either an internal temptation to sin or an external situation that tests your faith (Grk: *peirosmos*).
- **Testing** means to prove the worth of something (Grk: *dokimazō*).
- **Mature** → means to be full grown (Grk: *teleios*).
- **Perseverance** → means to stand firm under pressure (Grk: *hupomone*).

E. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. According to James 1:2-4, what are the two purposes for the testing of our faith?
2. Will all true believers will be able to persevere under trials to the end? (see 1 Cor. 1:8; John 6:37-39; 10:27-29; Philippians 1:6)
3. What does it mean to be spiritually mature? (See 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29).
4. According to James 1:12, what is promised to those who persevere under trials?
5. How would you expect to know when you are going through a time of testing?
6. What can you do during a time of testing when you feel anxious? (Phil. 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:7)
7. How will you know if you are truly trusting God during a time of testing? (Phil.4:7)