

LIFE DISRUPTED
“When the Walls Collapse”

1 Peter 4:12

“Dear friends, don’t be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you.” 1 Peter 4:12 (NLT)

God uses disruptive storms to:

- **Correct Us**
- **Perfect Us**

I. WHEN THE WALLS COLLAPSE:

“... My child, don’t ignore it when the Lord disciplines you, and don’t be discouraged when He corrects you. ... As you endure this divine discipline, remember God is treating you as His own children. ... afterward there will be a quiet harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.” Hebrews 12:5-11 (NLT)

1. You can **despise** the moment and rail against it—which means that you have forgotten God’s **goodness**.
2. You can become **discouraged** by the event, lose heart, and give up—which means that you have forgotten that all sunshine makes a **desert**.
3. You can endure it and be **trained** by it. The Scriptures teach us that nothing in life is wasted.

II. LIFE DISRUPTED – FIVE PRINCIPLES

1. Disruptive events are often **divine appointments**.

“... But to keep me from getting puffed up, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from getting proud.” 2 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT)

2. Progress without **pain** is usually not possible.
 - a. Character and substance are shaped in the crucible of **adversity**.
 - b. Unless there is pain in the formula, we will never stop to listen. God allows pain because He is determined to make us **wiser** and **stronger**.
 - c. It is important that we stay focused on **God’s plan** not our pain and discomfort.
3. The promise of God is the provision of **grace**.

“My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.” 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)

- a. Grace is the power to overcome the thorn, but not to **take it away**.

Jesus explains to us in John 15:1-8 that, because God loves us, He must do some pruning in order for us to thrive and blossom. We need to know that the Father is never closer to us (the branches) than when He is pruning.

- b. The greater the problem, the greater the **grace**.

4. Collapsed walls produce dynamic growth.

- a. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10..... More **Power**
- b. Hebrews 12:5-11..... More **Holiness**
- c. John 15:1-8..... More **Fruit**

5. What we receive from collapsing walls depends upon how we **respond**.

We need to learn how to ask **“what”** questions instead of “why” questions.