***Confidence in God in Trials and Changing Seasons (Romans 5:3-5)***

**God Promises to Fulfill His Purposes to Work All Things for Our Good**

We can be confident that God will fulfill His purpose and plan for our life, family, ministry, etc. The enemy seeks to destroy our confidence in God’s leadership to prevent us from having a vibrant spirit.

“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it...”  
Philippians 1:6

The Lord promised to overrule the pressures in our life to cause all things to work for our good. His primary purpose for us is that we grow in Christlikeness— love, meekness, purity, generosity, etc.

“We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose... to be conformed to the image of His Son.”   
Romans 8:28-29

Love, meekness, purity, etc. in our life will be greatly rewarded by Jesus in the age to come.

“I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich...”   
Revelation 3:18

“Each one’s work... will be revealed by fire... If anyone’s work... endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he will be saved...”   
1 Corinthians 3:13-15

“For our light affliction... is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.”   
2 Corinthians 4:16-17

**Aspects of God’s Leadership that the Enemy Accuses**

The Father disciplines us—He disciplines us to remove deficiencies (sin) from our life and to cause us to grow in righteousness. His correction is not rejection, but love for the children He delights in.

“Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. “  
Hebrews 12:11

“Whom the LORD loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.”   
Proverbs 3:12

The Father prunes us—His commitment to prune us is a glorious promise, not a dreadful warning. He prunes us to remove distraction from obedient believers. He prunes us because we do not have the wisdom or resolve to “cut off” some of the “good” activities in our life that resulted from the previous season of fruitfulness. Without understanding the Father as the vinedresser, we are more vulnerable to be fearful or offended with His leadership when He prunes us.

“...My Father is the vinedresser... Every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”   
John 15:1-2

The Father allows His people, us, to be persecuted. He rewards them greatly for their faithfulness.

“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.”   
Matthew 5:11-12

The fight is against the image of God in us. For as long as we reflect His face, His kindness, and who He is, the enemy is threatened, and the response is to hinder through accusation.