

**1. Receiving a revelation of the character of God**

- a) Romans 8:28-29 What important aspects of God’s character are emphasized by the apostle Paul in his epistle to Christians in Rome?
- b) Paul faced much suffering and many trials, but these were not the focus of his attention. Why?
- c) The apostle John testified that “God is love” (1 John 4:8) and Jesus testified “If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father” (John 14:9). Where do you see the love of God most clearly revealed in Jesus, the incarnated Son of God?
- d) How has God revealed His immeasurable, unfailing love to you?
- e) Why is it especially important to focus on God’s character of love when facing suffering and trials?

**2. Praying through times of suffering and trials**

- a) John 14:13-14 What does it mean to pray “in the name of Jesus”?
- b) Give some examples of praying in the name of Jesus recorded in the New Testament. Acts 3:6, 16:18, 9:40-42, 16:25, etc.
- c) Why is it vitally important to have a clear revelation of the character of Jesus when we pray in His name?
- d) How might we pray in the name of Jesus when we are enduring times of suffering and trials?

**3. Receiving the gift of spiritual sight**

- a) What special request did the apostle Paul make in his prayers for Christians in Ephesus? Ephesians 1:15-23
- b) Let’s read Paul’s prayer again and make it personal. “I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give me the spirit of wisdom...” Ephesians 1:17-18
- c) Have you ever prayed a prayer like that before? How can you be certain God wants to answer that prayer, helping you to see beyond the troubles of this life?

**4. Letting go of our worries about the present and future**

- a) Share something or someone you could easily worry about.
- b) Matthew 6:25-33 What reasons did Jesus give for letting go of our worries about the present and the future?
- c) What counsel did the apostle Peter give that reinforces this teaching of Jesus? 1 Peter 5:6-7
- d) What precious promise did the LORD give through the prophet Isaiah? Isaiah 40:28-31
- e) What other promises of the LORD give you comfort and peace when you are tempted to worry?

