

Thriving in Tough Times

Jeremiah 17:7-9

New International Version (NIV)

7 “But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him.
8 They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

Contrary to what might be expected, I look back on experiences that at the time seemed especially desolating and painful with particular satisfaction. Indeed, I can say with complete truthfulness that everything I have learned in my 75 years in this world, everything that has truly enhanced and enlightened my experience, has been through affliction and not through happiness. -Malcolm Muggeridge, in *Homemade*, July, 1990.

I. There is a blessing in the work of faith (v. 7).

- A. Faith in God’s character is the key—not faith in faith
- B. Confidence is assurance, assurance is a guarantee

II. There is stability in our standing where God has planted us (v. 8).

- A. God “plants” or establishes us.
- B. The result is the ability to survive in tough times.

CONCLUSION

Faith is not merely your holding on to God--it is God holding on to you. He will not let you go! - E. Stanley Jones