

Stress Out Part 2: Stress Cracks

Stress doesn't **create** character; it **reveals** character.

*"The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, **but the Lord tests hearts.**"*
Proverbs 17:3 NASB1995

✓ Sin

*"But your wickedness has **separated you from your God**, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear." Isaiah 59:2 AMP*

*"You spread out our sins before you— **our secret sins**—and you see them all." Psalms 90:8 NLT*

✓ Stupidity

*"My people are foolish and do not know me," says the Lord. "They are **stupid** children who have no understanding. They are clever enough at doing wrong, but they have no idea how to do right!"* Jeremiah 4:22 NLT

✓ Satan

*"Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, **looking for someone to devour.**"* 1 Peter 5:8 NLT

✓ Suffering

*"Therefore, those also who **suffer according to the will of God** shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right." 1 Peter 4:12-19 NASB1995*

*"Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; **I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.**"*
Isaiah 48:10 NASB1995

1. Sin has been paid for.

*"**He does not punish us for all our sins**; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. **He has removed our sins** as far from us as the east is from the west." Psalms 103:10-12 NLT*

*"If we **confess our sins**, he is faithful and just and will **forgive us our sins** and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9 NIV*

*"Think carefully about what is right, and **stop sinning**. For to your shame I say that some of you don't know God at all." 1 Corinthians 15:34 NLT*

2. Stupidity has an antidote.

*"Walk with the wise and **become wise**, for a companion of fools suffers harm." Proverbs 13:20 NIV*

*"God gave Solomon **wisdom** and very great **insight**, and a breadth of **understanding** as measureless as the sand on the seashore." 1 Kings 4:29 NIV*

3. Satan has no power.

*"The God of peace will soon **crush Satan** under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you." Romans 16:20 NLT*

*"For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and yet **Satan hindered us**." 1 Thessalonians 2:18 NASB1995*

Without sin and stupidity **Satan only has lies**.

With sin and stupidity **Satan has leverage**.

4. Suffering has a goal.

"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name." 1 Peter 4:12-16 NASB1995

The **goal of our lives** is to **glorify God**.

"Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord."" Job 1:20-21 NKJV