

# TRUST GOD'S STRENGTH

## COLOSSIANS 1:11b

*How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)*

BACKGROUND: Life's difficulties give opportunities to trust God's strength. "Trust is what we do with the faith God gives us." Bettye Simpson

**FOR ENDURANCE WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE.** Endurance or longsuffering is "the quality of a person who is able to avenge himself yet refrains from doing so." Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary, New Testament*, p. 939. (Colossians 1:11, Colossians 3:12-14, Ephesians 5:18, fn 5:18, Ephesians 4:1-3, fn 4:1, 2, II Samuel 16:5-14, fn 16:5-14, Proverbs 16:32, fn 16:32, Philippians 2:1-5, fn 2:5) *How could you learn to trust God's strength when interacting with difficult people?*

**FOR PATIENCE IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.** (Colossians 1:11, Colossians 2:6, 7, fn 2:6, 7, II Corinthians 1:3-10, fn 1:3-5, fn 1:6, 7, fn 1:8-10[1<sup>st</sup>], fn 1:8-10[2<sup>nd</sup>], Romans 8:31-39, fn 8:35, 36, fn 8:35-39, Philippians 4:11-13, fn 4:10-14) *What do you need to learn to prepare for difficult circumstances?*

**FOR JOY IN ALL DIFFICULTIES.** Your joy in all difficulties is the Lord's proclamation to all that you belong to Him and that He is in control of your life. Happiness depends on circumstances or "happenings" but joy depends on your relationship with God. (Colossians 1:11, John 15:9-11, fn 15:11, John 17:13, fn 17:13, Hebrews 10:32-38, fn 10:35-38, Habakkuk 3:17-19, fn 3:17-19, Philippians 4:4-7, fn 4:4) *Is there any excuse for "victimhood"? How does your relationship with Christ enable you to be joyful in all difficulties?*

*Check up—Are you praying with your spouse and your family? Group—Pray for personal requests and bond together by fellowshiping together.*