

Trials and Trail Markers / Sojourners and Strangers / 1 Peter 1:6-12 / 4-28-2024

A Refined Faith (6-7)

1 Peter 1:6-7

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

-Trials are passing

2 Cor. 4:16-17

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

-Trials are purposeful

RC Sproul-

If God has nothing to do with death and our afflictions, we of all people are the most to be pitied. The comfort we receive from the Word of God is that God is involved with our sufferings even to the extent that He ordains them, but the purpose of that ordination is always good and righteous.

RC Sproul-

This truth should not discourage us, but encourage us so that when we are falsely accused, slandered, or have our reputation injured, we can get on our knees and say, God, please vindicate me against these wicked people. We can ask for vindication. At the same time we have to ask him, "What did you have in mind in this trouble? Even though we suffer unjustly at the hands of men, we never suffer unjustly at the hands of God.

-Trials are painful

-Trials are plentiful

-Trials are purifying

Luke 8:13

And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away.

Job 23:10

But he (God) knows the way that I take;
when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.

2 Corinthians 12:7-12

So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

A Rejoicing Faith (8-9)

1 Peter 1:8-9

Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

James 1:2-4

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

-Loves when it can't see

John 20:28-29

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

-Trusts when it doesn't understand

Proverbs 3:5-6

⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.

⁶In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.

A Revealed Faith (10-12)

1 Peter 1:10-12

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

-God's mysterious plan

-God's glorious people

Dane Ortlund-

God brings us into meaningful depth with him not through ease but through difficulty. It is tears, not smiles, that form the anvil on which solid joy in God is forged. We thank God for the mountaintop experiences with Him. But it is in the valley where we find him nearest and dearest to us.