



Joy Amidst Trials

October 2 2022



WORSHIP

Living Hope
No Other Like Jesus
Bless the Lord

WELCOME

Take time to read 1 Peter 1:6-9 then discuss on how you understand the passage and what verses stand out in your reading and/or the message delivered last Sunday.

WORD

1 Peter 1:6

So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure trial for a little while.

Why Does God Allow Us To Go Through Trials?

Let's be honest: no one wants to undergo trials. Getting fired, the loss of a loved one, a serious disease – all of these are painful to experience. None of these seem to make any sense.

Yet undergoing trials is how God tests the authenticity of our faith (1 Peter 1:7). It's how He conforms us into the image of His Son. It's how He builds our character. And if our faith proves not to be worthless dross but worth its weight in gold, then it results "in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed" (1 Peter 1:7).

We Suffer For Christ For A Future Glory

Christians, let's take heart through our trials. What we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory He will reveal to us later. For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who His children really are. (Romans 8:18-19). In other words, just imagine that day when Christ's glory is finally revealed to us! And He is so incomprehensibly generous that He will even let us share in His glory.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

Thanksgiving

Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives.

Country and World

Repentance and salvation
Peace in Ukraine and healing for those infected by the virus

Church

CCF members would honor God & love God and make disciples.
Core, pastors and leaders.
Ministries and church worldwide

Personal Concerns

Share your problems and concerns with your group and pray for one another.

Do we need encouragement in the midst of our trials? Let's consider that in the end, we will receive an inheritance that will never perish, spoil or fade (1 Peter 1:4). And through it all, we are not left alone and defenceless because we are being shielded by God's power until the coming of our salvation (1 Peter 1:5)

Best of all, on that glorious day, we will finally see God. He whom we love and believe in even though we haven't seen Him yet; He who even now has already filled us with an inexpressible and glorious joy; He who has already saved our souls (1 Peter 1:8-9).

How To Face Trials

God doesn't want us to act like hypocrites and pretend that everything is fine while we are suffering. So first, we need to be real. We need to acknowledge our grief.

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But after doing so, we are commanded to rejoice in our trials. In fact, we are supposed to consider it pure joy whenever we face trials of many kinds (James 1:2) because it means that God is counting us worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus (Act 5:41).

What Joy Really Means

By “joy” we mean the spiritual kind; not the kind that is based on earthly success or comfortable circumstances. That shallow happiness quickly fades. By “joy” we mean the deep contentment in the knowledge that God, who alone can satisfy our hearts, is in us. This is the deep, deep gladness that never ends.

How To Find Joy Amidst Sorrow

We can rejoice in the knowledge that trials are temporary compared to our inheritance, which is eternal (2 Corinthians 4:17-18). The physical world, in which are the things our eyes can see, is temporary. But the spiritual world, which consists of things unseen, is eternal. Man lives an average of between 70 to 80 years. But that life span is not even a dot in the infinite span of eternity.

We can rejoice in the knowledge that our trials are not meaningless. They have a purpose (James 1:2-4; Psalms 119:71). God has a divine reason for allowing us to go through trials that seem to us extremely hard or even unfair. One of these reasons being that God wants to refine our faith so that it will be proven genuine (1 Peter 1:7).

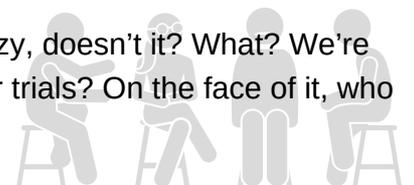
In the same way that only fire can extract gold from dross, only trials can extract our true faith from all that is false. Consider that in Daniel 3:8-25, the collective faith of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego was literally tested by fire.

Another reason being, the testing of our faith produces perseverance (James 1:2-4). Perseverance, in turn, builds up our character and maturity. And the more we become spiritually mature, the more we become like Christ.

Lastly, we can rejoice in the knowledge that loving and trusting God in difficult situations, even though we do not see Him, brings unspeakable joy. (1 Peter 1:8-9; John 20:29)

Be Glad In Your Trials

Seen from the eyes of an unbeliever, it all looks crazy, doesn't it? What? We're supposed to rejoice? Be joyful? Be glad through our trials? On the face of it, who can blame him for thinking us mad?



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But as Christians, we see through the eyes of faith. And through this lens, we can see that even while we suffer we can still be GLAD by meditating on these certainties:

God is in control of everything.

Love of God will carry us through our trials.

Accept that this is God's way of testing our faith.

Dwell on the future glory that awaits us.

So whenever we're undergoing trials, let's always remember: Rejoice! God is with us. He is in us. And His love for us will carry us through.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In 1 Peter 1:6, the apostle Peter reminded us of one of the delightful paradoxes of Christianity—joy in the midst of sorrow. How do you describe the joy in this context? Why do you think Christians can rejoice amidst trials? Please explain and share a situation based on your experience.
2. Many of us if not all have faced trials of various kinds and all of us will do experience this. Why do you think God, a loving and a good Father, allows us to go thru this difficult trials? What are the purposes of trials and which one was true in your life?
3. The speaker shared some truths for us to be able to handle trials joyfully. Remember the acronym GLAD? Which of these resonate with you?