

ECCLESIA COGIC
WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY
March 2, 2022

Pastor Luther H. Holmes, Jr.

Understanding the Trials of Your **Faith**

1 Peter 1:6-7 King James Version

⁶Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:⁷ That the trial of your faith being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 1:6-7 The Message

⁶⁻⁷ I know how great this makes you feel, even though you have to put up with every kind of aggravation in the meantime. Pure gold put in the fire comes out of it *proved* pure; genuine faith put through this suffering comes out *proved* genuine. When Jesus wraps this all up, it's your faith, not your gold, that God will have on display as evidence of his victory.

INTRODUCTION:

When's the last time you put a puzzle together? Some find puzzles enjoyable, and others even relaxing. But that enjoyment often diminishes once we find ourselves with a piece that doesn't seem to fit. When we can't detect its place, a challenging puzzle piece seems as if it doesn't belong. But later on, after we've completed the puzzle and observed our work, we find a grand image.

How many will admit that no one escapes life's trials, tribulations, or depression? But why do trials and tribulations happen to us? The trials we go through in life are like those seemingly misshapen puzzle pieces. In the heat of the moment, our trials fail to suggest they "fit" into our lives. But as time goes by and we look back, these at one time heart-wrenching difficulties now fit perfectly into the overall image.

Tonight's lesson is entitled, Understanding the Trials of Your Faith ...it is designed to answer that infamous question, why is it that believers have to go through suffering?

- Is suffering something that God actually uses to mature us?
- Is suffering of God, is suffering of the devil?
- Why we got to have trouble!

Prayerfully after studying this lesson, when we are confronted with trials challenging us and our faith, we will have an understanding where we cannot be frustrated by it, not run from it, not fear it, but to stand up against it and know as the scripture in Psalm 46:10 says, "be still and know" that God is God and that in those situations where we're being triedwe will be still and know.

So, I'm going to share some things we need to know when our faith is on trial.

First of all, how do you define trial? (Entry 1 of 4)

1: the formal examination before a competent tribunal of the matter in issue in a civil or criminal cause in order to determine such issue

2a: the action or process of trying or putting to the proof: TEST

b: a preliminary contest (as in a sport)

3a: a tryout or experiment to test quality, value, or usefulness—

b: one of a number of repetitions of an experiment

4: a test of faith, patience, or stamina through subjection to suffering or temptation *broadly:* a source of vexation or annoyance

Secondly, what is the trial of your faith?

- The trial of our faith is not just testing your faith to see if you have faith or not.
- The trial of your faith is not to see if your faith is sufficient or not.
- The trial of your faith is not the trial of your works or accomplishments.

The trial of your faith is the removing of the impurities of your dependence upon self. Have mercy! The trying of your faith depending on God or depending upon self is what's going to be put on trial. Depending on God versus dependence on yourself! Many Believers have gotten to the point where they are dependent on themselves.... their jobs, abilities.... some have removed God out of the conversation.

Say this, God show me whether I'm totally dependent on you!

The trial of your faith! What is God accomplishing by allowing difficult circumstances into the lives of his children? Each situation is designed by God to:

- 1) refine the precious character of our faith. Just as gold is refined by the fire to remove impurities, the believer's faith must be refined to remove the impurities of sin.
- 2) to show the genuineness of faith, to prove that by God's power, His people can withstand the test.

6 Ways God Uses Trials in Our Lives

1. God uses trials to break our independence and foster our dependence on Him (2 Corinthians 1:8-9).
2. God uses trials to purify our faith and develop our moral character (Romans 5:3-5).
3. God uses trials to test, prove, and strengthen our faith in Him (1 Peter 1:6-7).
4. God uses trials to prepare us for His purposes (Romans 8:28-29).
5. God works through trials to prove Himself powerful and reliable (2 Corinthians 12:8-10).

6. God uses trials to prove our faith works (2 Corinthians 4:7-10).

How should the Believer look at trials?

a. Not as an end in themselves but as a refining process in preparation for heaven.

b. The Believer looks through the trial to the joy of the Lord in heaven

1) Joy according to how we have responded to that trouble

2) Joy because of what we will receive as our reward for being faithful

Troubles in This Life Prepares Us for Our Profit

1. For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. Hebrews 12:10
ESV

a. A parent spans a child to prepare the child for life

b. God allows us to have trouble to prepare us for holiness

1) In this life

2) In the life to come

God is not finished with you yet. And He is definitely not finished with me. I know more difficulties lie ahead. Honestly, I wish God had chosen to work another way. But I will choose to trust His infinite wisdom and submit to His refining process. I don't know about you, but I don't want to waste any trial or difficulty!

“And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.” 1 Peter 5:10 ESV

a. Suffering is only for a limited time in light of eternity

b. Suffering perfects us as Believers

c. Suffering establishes our credibility

d. Suffering makes us strong in our Christian life

e. Suffering settles us by putting life into proper perspective

There is no need to despair. We can endure such times because the Lord loves his children, and they can trust Him. **These trials are only for a season and there is understanding that the Lord is faithful in all circumstances.** The day of revelation is coming, and those who have been refined and are proven

faithful will be delivered on that day. The Lord will present those who have been refined as faultless before God.

In what ways has God used trials in your life to refine your faith and character? To make you more like Jesus!