

“Singing in the Rain”

1 Peter 1:6-9

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Weather and seasonal changes can affect our moods. SAD
- Cannot choose our circumstances, but can choose our attitudes
- Living HOPE—living with heaven in view!
 - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18-- *“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”*

“Singing in the Rain”

A. The Paradox of the Christian Life: Sorrow and Joy

- 1 Peter 1:6-9-- *“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.”*
1. **As Christians, we experience sorrow.**
 - a) **It’s not sinful to be sorrowful.**
 - Matthew 26:37-38-- *“Jesus took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, ‘My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.’”*
 - Isaiah 53:3-- *“is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.”*
 - b) **Sorrow is an appropriate response...**
 - 1) **Deplorable spiritual condition of nation**
 - Luke 19:42-44-- *“If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”*
 - 2) **Death of a loved one**—1 Thessalonians 4:13
 - 3) **Dealing with sin**
 - 2 Corinthians 7:9-10-- *“Now, I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”*
 - c) **But God turns our sorrow into joy.**
 - John 16:20-- *“Most assuredly I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy.”*

2. **As a Christian, we also experience JOY!**
 - a) **Difficulty in defining and expressing joy.**
 - b) **Differences between “happiness” and “joy”**
 - 1) Happiness—external, circumstantial
 - 2) Joy—internal peace and contentment, all is well

B. The Reasons we can “Sing in the Rain”

1. We have a SURE HOPE!

- 1 Peter 1:6-- *“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials.”*
- Hebrews 10:32-34-- *“recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings; partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.”*

2. We hold to SOUND TEACHING on Suffering.

- 1 Peter 1:6-7-- *“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”*

a. Temporary—“A little while”

- Psalm 30:5-- *“For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.”*

b. Necessary—“if needs be”

- 1 Peter 3:17-- *“for it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.”*
- 1 Peter 4:19-- *“Therefore, let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.”*
- Acts 14:22-- *“the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, ‘We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.’”*
- 1 Thessalonians 3:3 -- *“that no one should be shaken by these afflictions, for you yourselves know that we were appointed to this.”*

c. Purposeful—God’s two-fold purpose for suffering

1) It IMPROVES the QUALITY of our faith

- James 1:2-3-- *“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”*
- Romans 5:3-4-- *“But we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulations produces perseverance, and perseverance produces character, and character, hope.”*

2) It PROVES the GENUINENESS of our faith

- 1 Peter 1:7-- *“that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”*

a. Faith tested through fire like precious metals

b. Job and Abraham’s faith tested

- Job 23:10 -- *“But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.”*
- Genesis 22:12-- *“for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son.”*

c. **The way we respond proves our faith**

- Matthew 13:20-21-- *"But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles."*

d. **Rewarded**—*"may be found to praise, honor, and glory"*

- 1 Peter 1:7-- *"that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ."*
- 2 Corinthians 5:10-- *"we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in his body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."*
- Matthew 25:21 -- *"Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord!"*
- 1 Corinthians 9:25-- *"to obtain a perishable crown, but we have an imperishable crown."*
- Matthew 5:11-12-- *"Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."*

3. **We enjoy SWEET FELLOWSHIP with Christ**

- 1 Peter 1:8-9 -- *"whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls."*

a. **Love and trust -- two crucial ingredients for relationships**

1) **We love by obeying Christ's commands**

- 1 John 14:19-- *"We love Him because He first loved us!"*
- John 14:21-- *"He who has my commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."*

2) **We trust even though we've never seen Jesus**

- John 20:29-- *"Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

b. **Fellowship is sweetest during times of suffering**

1) **Paul's goal – "fellowship of His sufferings"**

- Philippians 3:10-11-- *"that I may know Him, and the power of the resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead."*

2) **Paul's experience at first trial**

- 2 Timothy 4:16-18-- *"At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for his heavenly kingdom! To him be the glory forever and ever, Amen!"*