

Celebrate Hardship

10/31/10

Video: "The Stool" 1:53

James 1:2-4

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:12

"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him."

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1) *There is a God!*

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2) *It's not you!*

Psalms 14:1-3

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good. 2 The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. 3 All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.

When I Surrender my Life to Jesus:

- I am no longer in charge of my goals and dreams, I surrender those to Jesus. After all, my life is His.
- I am no longer in charge of my ego or how other people perceive me in being smart, talented, or successful. I surrender those ambitions to Jesus. After all, it's His reputation that is at stake.
- I ask Him to control my thought life and willingly turn away from thoughts that I think nobody knows that I'm thinking. After all, it's His mind.
- I am no longer in charge of choosing what words *I* want to speak when I feel like the world needs to hear what *I* have to say. I let Jesus speak through me all of the time. After all, it's His mouth and the words I speak give Him glory.
- My actions are led by Him daily. I follow Him in the way he leads me.

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3) Celebrating hardship in your life requires giving your life away.

Matthew 10:37-39

37 "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; 38 and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

John 12:24-26

24 I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. 25 The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

Matthew 16:24-27

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. 26 What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"

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4) Know the proper posture.

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5) Surrender can be painful.

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6) Surrender invites peace.

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7) Surrender must become a way of life.

Romans 12:1-2

12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1 Corinthians 15:31

31 I die every day — I mean that, brothers — just as surely as I glory over you in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:31-39