

Salvation Joy

1 Peter 1:6-9

PART FOUR

2. A GROWING FAITH

Faith is not only needed to strengthen us in the trial, but the trial is needed to strengthen our faith.

“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” (vv6-7a).

Five Factors that Weaken Faith

- Doubt
- Fear
- Worldliness
- Neglecting the Word and prayer
- Permitting sin to remain alive

Trial by Fire

God: A devouring, consuming, Refiner's fire

“Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain” (Exodus 24:17).

“For the Lord your God is a consuming fire” (Deuteronomy 4:24; also, Hebrews 12:29).

“For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord” (Malachi 3:2-3).

“And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are my people'; and they will say, 'The Lord is my God.'" (Zechariah 13:9).

“But he knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold” (Job 23:10).

Our faith must endure to the end of our journey here on earth because it is by faith that we are carried home to heaven.

“More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance” (Romans 5:3).

“But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:13-14).

If our faith is to endure, it must be tested, purified, and strengthened through suffering.

Our faith may falter, but it will never ultimately fail.

God uses trials to build our trust in Him.

“Our trials keep us trusting; they burn away our self-confidence and drive us to our Saviour” (Clowney).

Trials are sent by God to accomplish His purposes, achieve His glory and our greater good.

“Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it? Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come? Why should a living man complain, a man, about the punishment of his sins?” (Lamentations 3:37-39).

“Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit’— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.’ As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil” (James 4:13-16).

Divine Providence often interferes with human plans—interrupting them, changing the course of them.

Thomas Boston

Trust in God with minds fixed on Him produces internal peace amid the storms in life.

“Open the gates, that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in. You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock” (Isaiah 26:2-4).

God is with us in our trials. He keeps a record of our suffering.

“You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book? This I know, that God is for me. In God, whose word I praise, in the Lord, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid” (Psalm 56:8-11).

His comforting reassurance:

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior” (Isaiah 43:2-3).

3. A FORTHCOMING HONOR

Enduring suffering with abiding joy will bring *praise, glory, and honor* to us and to our Lord Jesus Christ on the day of His return.

“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” (vv6-7).

The Lord is coming, and His reward is with Him!

“Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him” (Isaiah 40:10).

“Behold, the Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him’” (Isaiah 62:11).

“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done” (Revelation 22:12).

“Use me here as pleases you, so that hereafter it may be well with me” (Augustine).

We receive *praise, glory, and honor* from God for responding in faith when faced with challenges in life.

“But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God” (Romans 2:29).

“How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?” (John 5:44).

“for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God” (John 12:43).

“He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life” (Romans 2:6-7).

There will be “glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek” (Romans 2:10).

“Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God” (1 Corinthians 4:5).

“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master’” (Matthew 25:21).

Live faithfully in the present in hopeful anticipation of *future glory*.

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Romans 8:18).

Peter calls it, “the unfading crown of glory” that will be received “when the chief Shepherd appears” (1 Peter 5:4).

Peter also says that we will be “a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed” (1 Peter 5:1).

It would appear we are to understand the *praise, glory, and honor* as the grace that we receive at the second coming of Jesus Christ.

“set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1:13; cp Romans 2:7).

“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him” (James 1:12).