

## REJOICING WITH HOPE, DESPITE EVERY TRIAL

### I. [1 Peter 1:3-9](#) [Romans 5:1-12](#)

A. The last several weeks we have been talking about troubles, trials, and tribulations and how we behave in them as we traverse through them. If these messages haven't been for you now, perhaps they will be someday.

B. Three important truths when we're in moments, days, or seasons of trials and difficulties: (1) God is in control-- He is sovereign; (2) God is good and His intentions are likewise good. (3) God loves you, even enough to discipline you.

C. Here's some key Scriptures we've covered since we began:

**2 Corinthians 4:16-18** (NIV): "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." **James 1:2-4** (ESV) "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." **Hebrews 12:1-3** (NIV) "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorned its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." **Job 5:17-18** (NIV) "Blessed is the one whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. For He wounds, but He also binds up; He injures, but His hands also heal." **Proverbs 3:11-12** (Amplified) "My son, do not despise or shrink from the chastening of the Lord [His correction by punishment or by subjection to suffering or trial]; neither be weary of or impatient about or loathe or abhor His reproof, For whom the Lord loves He corrects, even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights." **Romans 8:28** (NASB) "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

D. Listen to these profound quotes which affirm our Scripture Verses:

1) **John Newton, author of "Amazing Grace"**: "Faith upholds a Christian under all trials, by assuring him that every painful dispensation is under the direction of his Lord; that chastisements are a token of His love; that the season, measure, and continuance of his sufferings, are appointed by Infinite Wisdom, and designed to work for his everlasting good; and that grace and strength shall be afforded him, according to his need." (This quote totally summarizes this sermon series we've been going through.)

2) **Edmund Clowney**: "Trials should not surprise us, or cause us to doubt God's faithfulness. Rather, we should actually be glad for them. God sends trials to strengthen our trust in Him so that our faith will not fail. Our trials keep us trusting; they burn away our self confidence and drive us to our Savior."

3) **Charles H. Spurgeon on how our trials are not just for us**: "I would go to the deeps a hundred times to cheer a downcast spirit. It is good for me to have been afflicted, that I might know how to speak a word in season to one that is weary."

E. Today we hear from Peter and Paul. Their words, inspired by the Holy Spirit, will take us to the Bread and Cup. Both of the following Scripture texts declare the Gospel, the Good News: What we were without Jesus; how His mercy and love were deluged upon us; what He accomplished for us on the cross; and what we have to look forward to because of all He did. While we hope in eternal glory and bliss with Christ forever, life in the here and now is not without trials.

F. **1 Peter 1:3-9** (ESV) **3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! (Why such praise?) According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (About this great mercy: How many of you deserved this mercy? How many of you caused yourself to be born again? [Did you cause your natural birth?]) What makes all this such Good News is that we didn't make it happen for ourselves, He made it happen for us!) **4** to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, (NIV: "to an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.") **5** who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, **7** 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. **8** Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, (KJV "Joy unspeakable") **9** obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (Garden work always came before the pool.)

**G. Romans 5:1-12 (ESV)** **5** Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, **(Declared not guilty! Declared righteous!)** we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. **2** Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. **(We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, for the glory of God alone! Ephesians. 2:8-9 says: "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." Who made this happen?)** **3** Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, **4** and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, **5** and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. **6** For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. **(Know this: At the right time Christ died for you!)** **7** For one will scarcely die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die-- **8** but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **(Let's make this really personal. Let's say this together: 'Christ died for the ungodly!' 'He died for us!' 'He died for you!' 'He died for me!' The Bread & Cup remind us!)** **9** Since, therefore, we have now been justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God. **10** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life. **11** More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

**H. We have not just been saved from God's wrath and eternal punishment in hell. Not just saved for eternal bliss in heaven. We have been reconciled to Him--turned from His enemies into His friends--to a relationship with the King of kings and Lord of lords! A relationship that stands firm and sustains us no matter what--through every trial and every ounce of woe! Glory be to God! Let the Bread & Cup remind us!)**

**\* Pray and Serve Communion...**

**\* Romans 12:9-13 (VOICE) is our Benediction today. Go home with these anointed words:**

**9** Love others well, and don't hide behind a mask; love authentically. Despise evil; pursue what is good as if your life depends on it. **10** Live in true devotion to one another, loving each other as sisters and brothers. Be first to honor others by putting them first. **11** Do not slack in your faithfulness and hard work. Let your spirit be on fire, bubbling up and boiling over, as you serve the Lord. **12** Do not forget to rejoice, for hope is always just around the corner. Hold up through the hard times that are coming, and devote yourselves to prayer. **13** Share what you have with the saints, so they lack nothing; take every opportunity to open your life and home to others.

### **Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff**

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through the hard times that are coming, and devote yourselves to prayer. **13** Share what you have with the saints, so they lack nothing; take every opportunity to open your life and home to others.

#### **Quote by John Newton**

"Faith upholds a Christian under all trials, by assuring him that every painful dispensation is under the direction of his Lord; that chastisements are a token of His love; that the season, measure, and continuance of his sufferings, are appointed by Infinite Wisdom, and designed to work for his everlasting good; and that grace and strength shall be afforded him, according to his need."

#### **Quote by Edmund Clowney**

"Trials should not surprise us, or cause us to doubt God's faithfulness. Rather, we should actually be glad for them. God sends trials to strengthen our trust in Him so that our faith will not fail. Our trials keep us trusting; they burn away our self confidence and drive us to our Savior."

#### **Quote by Charles H. Spurgeon**

"I would go to the deeps a hundred times to cheer a downcast spirit. It is good for me to have been afflicted, that I might know how to speak a word in season to one that is weary."

#### **Film Clips & Other Links**

"Crying Out to Jesus" - Third Day

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JmVxRI5bc4Y>

Praying Our Tears - Sermon by Tim Keller

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DxOwwwVDGD0>

How Our Suffering Glorifies God - Sermon by John Piper

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZK00Tcb6ROY>

Aslan - Not A Tame Lion But He Is Good

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nxw3DC\\_faQA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nxw3DC_faQA)

Ben Zobrist Olivet Naz U. Grad, Chicago Cub, World Series MVP, Brother in Christ

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0qUs2Z6TGI>

#### **Bonus Stuff**

##### **Romans 8:18 (ESV)**

**18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

##### **1 Corinthians 4:9-13 (Phillips)**

**9-13** I sometimes think that God means us, the messengers, to appear last in the procession of mankind, like the men who are to die in the arena. For indeed we are made a public spectacle before the angels of Heaven and the eyes of men. We are looked upon as fools, for Christ's sake, but you are wise in the Christian faith. We are considered weak, but you have become strong: you have found honour, we little but contempt. Up to this very hour we are hungry and thirsty, ill-clad, knocked about and practically homeless. We still have to work for our living by manual labour. Men curse us, but we return a blessing: they make our lives miserable but we take it patiently. They ruin our reputations but we go on trying to win them for God. We are the world's rubbish, the scum of the earth, yes, up to this very day.

##### **James 1:12 (ESV)**

**12** 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.

#### **Quote by John Newton**

"It belongs to your calling of God as a minister, that you should have a taste of the various spiritual trials which are incident to the Lord's people, that thereby you may know how to speak a word in season to them that are weary; and it is likewise needful to keep you perpetually attentive to that important admonition, *"Without Me ye can do nothing."*

**Quote by Charles H. Spurgeon**

"Good people must never expect to escape troubles; if they do, they will be disappointed, for none of their predecessors have been without them."

**Quote by Theodore Epp**

"We are so easily entangled in earthly affairs and so easily consumed with the desire for those things that do not last. We will not live on this earth forever, so even our trials should be viewed in the light of eternity."

**Quote by Kay Arthur**

"In any trial, in any bitter situation, you are not alone, you are not helpless, you are not a victim. You have a tree, a cross, shown to you by the Sovereign God of Calvary. Whatever the trial or temptation, it is not more than you can bear. It is bearable. It can be handled. You can know as Joseph knew, "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive" (Genesis 50:20)."

**Quote by Charles H. Spurgeon**

"You may readily judge whether you are a child of God or a hypocrite by seeing in what direction your soul turns in seasons of severe trial. The hypocrite flies to the world and finds a sort of comfort there. But the child of God runs to his Father and expects consolation only from the Lord's hand."

**Quote by A.B. Simpson**

"There are two ways of getting out of a trial. One is simply to try to get rid of the trial, and be thankful when it is over. The other is to recognize the trial as a challenge from God to claim a larger blessing than we have ever had, and to hail it with delight as an opportunity of obtaining a larger measure of divine grace."

**Quote by Samuel Rutherford**

"Keep God's covenant in your trials; hold you by His blessed word, and sin not; flee anger, wrath, grudging, envying, fretting; forgive a hundred pence to your fellow-servant, because your Lord hath forgiven you ten thousand talents: for, I assure you by the Lord, your adversaries shall get no advantage against you, except you sin, and offend your Lord, in your sufferings."

**Quote by C.S. Lewis**

"The real problem is not why some pious, humble, believing people suffer, but why some do not."

**Quote by C.S. Lewis**

"We're not necessarily doubting that God will do the best for us; we are wondering how painful the best will turn out to be..."

**Quote by Joni Eareckson Tada**

"God always seems bigger to those who need Him most. And suffering is the tool He uses to help us need Him more."

**Life After Death - The Westminster Confession**

"The bodies of men, after death, return to dust, and see corruption: but their souls, which neither die nor sleep, having an immortal subsistence, immediately return to God who gave them: the souls of the righteous, being then made perfect in holiness, are received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God, in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies. And the souls of the wicked are cast into hell, where they remain in torments and utter darkness, reserved to the judgment of the great day. Beside these two places, for souls separated from their bodies, the Scripture acknowledges none"

- The Westminster Confession, (Chapter XXXII), 1646.

**Valuable Chains  
by Ray Stedman**

There is a moving story which comes out of the persecution of the Christians in the third and fourth centuries. One aged saint had spent many years in a dark and gloomy dungeon, bound by a great ball and chain. When the emperor Constantine ascended the throne, thousands of Christians were released from imprisonment, and among them this old man. Desiring to recompense him for his years of misery, the emperor commanded that the ball and chain be weighed and the old man given the equivalent weight in gold. Thus, the greater the weight of his chain, the greater was his reward when release came.

But the reality Paul speaks of is even greater than this. He says the weight of glory will be beyond all comparison. The Greek expression is, literally, "abundance upon abundance." It is such an abundance that it constitutes a great

"weight." We speak of the "weight of responsibility" not always as a burden but often as a challenge. Here is the great challenge of a weight of glory, offering indescribable opportunity to those for whom it is prepared.

It seems clear, then, that something tremendous is ahead. Not only does daily inner renewal suggest it, and our present affliction is preparing it, but the very nature of faith itself guarantees it. "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18).