

Questions and Answers #29

The Trial of Your Faith

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Wednesday evening we spoke again on faith but this time on the Joy which we should have when we are receiving trials based on our Faith. The subject was “Count it all joy, and took our text from **James 1:2-8** *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations. 3. Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

We looked mostly at verse one and spoke on the subject of the Joy that we are commanded to show when going through our trials. We saw how this is made possible because we know the trials will work within us a patience that has the end result that we will be wanting nothing.

We saw how that in **Romans 5:3** Paul said, *“we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; 4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope: 5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

So we see that there is a purpose behind our trials, and that is to produce in us a character that we could never develop without the trials and testing.

By Scripture we are told that Abraham was not tried until after he had received the promise. And so it is with all sons. God doesn’t try you or put you to the test and then give you the promise. He makes the promise first and then placed the trials to see how we are going to do with them. **Hebrews 11:17-19**, we read, *“By faith, when Abraham faith was tried when he was told to offer up Isaac: 18 and he knew the promise Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: 19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.*

In **Hebrews 6:15** concerning Abraham we read: *And so, after he had patiently endured, Then (and only then) he obtained the promise.*

Hebrews 10:35 *Cast not away therefore your confidence (Confidence in Who or In what? In God’s Word, that’s what.) which hath great recompense of reward.”*(So we see that the Word of God, God’s Promises have a great recompense of reward. There is reward in believing what God promises!!!) **36** *For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.* When do you get the promise? After you are tried and endure.

It says in Heb 5:7-9 concerning Jesus: **7** *Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared (He was not heard because he cried and sobbed and fasted—he feared); 8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9 And being made perfect, (How? By suffering...to get patience...to get character...and only then) he became the author of eternal salvation...*

Even Jesus Christ had to suffer to develop character. Now, this morning I will speak on the Subject “The Trial of Your Faith which we find in 1 Peter chapter 1.

What most people do not understand is that God has ordained a Faith for us and that faith is to bring us into the very mind of God to think like God thinks. And therefore when God gives us this Faith, (and we know Faith is a revelation) we know that most assuredly as He has given us this revelation, he will also test us in this Revelation. Therefore the Revelation and thus the trial of that Revelation are for the purpose of bringing about the very mind of God in us. We speak what God speaks and we do what God shows us to do, and we have no doctrine but His doctrine and we have no will but His will.

Therefore there are three things we must understand and about the Trial of our Faith or the Trial of our Revelation.

Number One: The Trial of your Faith is predestined for your glory. In other words where God has predestined “The Faith” because there is but One Faith, and that is the Faith of the “One Lord,” then that Faith is the Doctrine of Christ which God had ordained for our Glory. Therefore God has predestined the Trial of your Faith, in which He has selected out specific trials that are ordained to test your Faith in Him.

Number Two: You are ordained to pass the test.

Therefore **Number Three:** You are tested for the purpose of approval.

Now, let’s see if these statements are not exactly correct from the Word of God and the Message of the Hour. Now, let’s open our Bibles to 1 Peter 1 and I want you to notice who Peter is addressing here. He is addressing the Elect of God.

1 PETER 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope (that’s a living hope, or a hope that has been made alive. And How has that hope been made alive?) ***by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*** (and where is that hope to lead us?) ***4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,***

So we see that this hope keeps us alive and in a living anticipation of the inheritance. The we se that this hope is not for just anybody, but only for those who are to receive the inheritance, namely sons and daughters of God who have the mind of God. That is what we learned about the spirit of Wisdom and Revelation in the knowledge of Him. That is ***Ephesians 1:17-18. That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,***

Notice Paul said the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation in the Knowledge of Him, God, is to come to get us ready and to make know the earnest expectation we have in the inheritance of the saints. So we see this spirit in our midst is to get us ready to receive our inheritance. Now there is the promise of God to us, and last week we established that when God gives us a promise he will also give us trials or test us whether we believe that promise or not.

Br. Branham said in his sermon, *Seventy weeks of Daniel 61-0806 P:36* You remember in Daniel 12 He said, "The wise shall understand in this last days"? It's been given to him. *The Spirit of wisdom comes into the church to make known to the church by the revelation of the Holy Ghost--bringing the church in and revealing what day that we're living in. Just the same as Gabriel come to Daniel, the Holy Spirit comes to the church in the last days to reveal these great, deep, secret things. Do you understand now?*

So we see that The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation in the knowledge of Him is to get us ready for the adoption, because you don't receive inheritance unless you are adopted first. And the adoption is for those who are sons as John said in **1 John 3:2**, "*Beloved you are already sons, but it does not yet appear what you shall be, but when He shall Appear, When He shall phaneroo, When He shall manifest in His true character, then you will also manifest in your true character because you will see Him as He really is, and in seeing Him as He really is you will become like Him, and manifest the same charaterter that He manifests.*" Now, notice then what this hope does.

Now, let's continue reading in **1 Peter 1:5** *And you who are kept by the power of God and what is the power of God, it is the Message of Christ according to Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*

Now, again in reading from **1 Peter 1:5** *And you who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.* (So we see that there is an end-time salvation that will be revealed in the last time, or the end-time.) **6** *Wherein 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.*

Notice he is speaking of trials that we are ordained to receive and these trials are associated with our faith, to test our faith to see where we stand in that faith, or that revelation. And not only are we ordained to these test, but we are also ordained to pass them.

WUEST TRANSLATION*In which last season you are to be constantly rejoicing with a joy that expresses itself in a triumphant exuberance, although for a little while at the present time if perchance there is a need for it, you have been made sorrowful in the midst of many different kinds of testings in order that the approval of your faith, which faith was examined by testing for the purpose of being approved, that your approval being much more precious than the approval of gold which perishes, even though that gold be approved by fire-testing, may be discovered after scrutiny to result in Praise, Honor and Glory at the time of the Revelation of Jesus Christ;*

So you see our trials and tests come after we receive the promise from God, in order to see if we are going to hold to the promise, and you know what? God doesn't give the promise to just anybody. Peter here tells us that He gives them to those who are ordained to pass the tests.

Now, **1 Peter 1** speaks of the end-time trial of our Faith that is ordained to bring forth Glory, which is the very mind of God in the believer. So the trial is made in such a way as to bring the thoughts of God into our minds as we are going through them. Thus we are given a test or tests because of that Word or that promise of God, but then when we are given trials by the Word we are also Given a Word to pass the Trials. Let me repeat that. Our trials are because of the Word, and yet God gives us Word to pass the trials. So it all goes right back to Him Who is the Word.

Now, Peter also says in **1 Peter 4:12** *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:* Here we see that it should not surprise us when we face our trials, because these trials are made for the purpose of testing us. **13** *But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory* (and we know this Glory is His Doxa which is His very mind) *shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.* And why should we rejoice when God reveals his Doxa to Us? Because **Deuteronomy 29:29** tells us, *The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.* and that means that as long as it remains unrevealed it is still God's but once it has been revealed to us then the title deed is our. It is the earnest of our possession. but those things revealed belong unto us and to our children forever.

So we are talking about a time when the very mind of God is to come into the Elect as Paul said in **2 Thessalonians 1:7-10** *And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,* Now, we have already seen and are witnessing the Appearing of the Lord. Now, remember, Appearing and coming are two different words and they mean two different things. And we have seen the revelation of the Son of Man coming from the Heavens in the form a white wig which was to designate Him as the Supreme Judge, and notice that the white wig was made up of angels. Exactly what Paul is speaking of here.

Now, Paul continues in verse **8** *In flaming fire* (the Pillar of Fire) *taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ* (and notice what happens to those who do not believe or obey) **9** *Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;* (So just like Cain, they must go out from the presence of the Lord. But notice what happens to the Elect Saints of God. And remember if they are saints it is because they are sanctified. So this is not speaking of those who are borderline Christians. It speaks to those who have been sanctified which means cleansed and set aside for service.) **10** *When he shall come to be glorified in his saints,* (Notice he said, When He, Christ, shall come to be glorified, endoxa'd in His Sanctified Ones. That means He comes at this time to place the very mind of God in the sanctified ones.) *and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.* (So Paul is telling us that this is the hour that His testimony, his Message will be believed. And did not Br. Branham say, He was only preaching what Paul Preached?) **11** *Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling,*

So you see to receive the very mind of God is your calling if God has ordained you to it) *and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: 12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Now, in getting back to **1 Peter 4:14** He is talking about the reproach for the Word that you are ordained to be tested in. *If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory* (that's God's doxa again) *and of God resteth upon you* (So not only is the Spirit of God to rest upon you, but his very mind will be in you) *on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.* (In other words, in them will come cursing, but in you will come forth the very mind of God, the doxa of God.) *15 Only let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. 16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.* (Let him reflect the doxa of God during these trials),

1 Peter 4:17 *For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? 18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? 19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.*

Peter tells us that we should not think it is strange when we are tried and tested. But rather he tells us to make sure that our trials are because of our stand for God's Word and not for doing things that are not right. For if we suffer for those things we have brought upon ourselves because we have not sowed right, then just bear it because you deserve it. But when you suffer for taking a stand on God's then that is when you should be extremely happy. It's like those people who get under a false ministry and they suffer for it. Those false ministries take advantage of them, and bleed them of all they have, and shear them like sheep. Now, that suffering is not because of God's Glory. That suffering is due to sheer stupidity and not knowing wherein ye now stand.

Job tells us that when God rebukes us we should be happy. Not when men tell you which is up and down, and call you down, but when God set's you in your place because when God does it, it shows He is actively participating in your way of Life.

Let us turn to **Job 5:17-27**. *Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty. 18 For God maketh sore, and God bindeth up: God woundeth, and God's hands make whole. 19 He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee. 20 In famine shall redeem thee from death: and in war from the power of the sword. 21 Thou shalt be hid from the scourge of the tongue: (But it's going to be there.) neither shalt thou be afraid of destruction when it cometh. 22 At destruction and famine thou shalt laugh: neither shalt thou be afraid of the beasts of the earth. 23 For thou shalt be in league with the stones of the field: and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with thee. 24 And thou shalt know that thy tabernacle shall be in peace; and thou shalt visit thy habitation, and shalt not sin. 25 Thou shalt know also that thy seed [shall be] great, and thine offspring as the grass of the earth. 26 Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in his season.*

So, when does a shock “come into season?” When it’s mature. When it ready for harvest; it’s not green any longer; it’s ripe, and it has character. The Life is fully ripe, and ready for harvest. It is fully grown. It has no more growing that is necessary.

God develops character in you by suffering.

Psalms 84:4-7, and It says: *Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah. 5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them. 6 Who passing through the valley of Baca* (the valley of tears, the valley of sorrow, the valley of testings, the valley of trials)... What does It say? *make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools.*

Now, **Ps 94:12-13**: *Blessed [is] the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law; (13) That thou mayest give him rest...* (How do you get rest? Through your faith in God...the trial of faith. How? By the trial of your faith.) *That thou mayest give him rest from the days of adversity, until the pit be digged for the wicked.*

Let’s turn to **1 Pet 5:6-11**, and It says: *6 Humble yourselves thyself therefore under the mighty hand of God.* What does It say? *6 Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.* In other words God is going to bring you down by His Own Hand and, then, lift you up. *7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.* See what we are talking about? *8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.*

How does he devour them? By the people thinking that their sorrow is too much for them, and they get swallowed up. Now: *9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are (being) accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.* (Not one misses it.) *(10) But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.*

You say, “I want that, patience, without suffering, so I won’t mind suffering then.” I’m sorry, but you get it by suffering. You don’t get it to enable you to suffer; you suffer in order to get it. You don’t get money in order to go to work; you go to work in order to get money. Huh? Now, don’t try to change God’s order of scriptures.

God has never changed His way. And we must come the way of suffering.

Revelation 3:19. “*As many as I love...*” This is said to your day and mine. In no place in the Laodicean age does **it say that we love God**. The last book of the Bible in the Old Testament, **Mal 1:1** *The burden of the word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi. 2 I have loved you, saith the Lord, yet ye say, wherein hast thou loved us?* God loved Israel; but they did not love Him. God does not say we love Him, but He says He loves us, and the only way we are capable of loving Him is that he first loved us. And to the Laodicean church He warns us. Why? Because He says, I’m going to have to rebuke you, and I’m going to chasten you: “Be zealous, therefore, and repent--because you haven’t seen it.”

Finally, in closing let’s turn to **Hebrews 12:1** *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight,* (let us lay aside all those things that are holding you down, or holding you back) *and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,* (Now, how can you run the race

if you are encumbered which means you are strapped down with so much weight. Herb Brooks the coach of the winning 1980 Olympic Gold medal hockey team knew this. So what he did was to strap ankle weights on his player during practice and then when the time for the real game came, he took off the weights and boy could those guys fly on the ice. So it's time to lay aside everything that can weigh you down and hold you back from receiving the crown of Glory, and look to the author and finisher of your faith and get ready because you are going to have to fly one of these days. Just don't be weighted down when that time comes.)

Now, verse *2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider him* (in other words, consider him means to set your focus on him and what he did) *that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. 4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. 5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: 6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.* (So if God really loves you and has received you, then you will get rebuked and chastened, so when it comes, be happy, and don't shrink back from him. It means He truly Loves you and wants to see His own Glory, His own Mind in you.)

Verse *7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. 9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. 11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*

Now, what's that telling us? He is saying although you might not like what is happening or the way it is happening get your minds off the circumstances and look at the promise of what those trials are to do in your because they are to produce the very nature and character and mind of the Father in you.

Verse *12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; 13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. 14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord* (Look, he's telling us here that without holiness no man shall see the Lord, so those people who claim to believe God sent a promise but refuse to believe the message and Live it, will never see the Lord. They just saw a man that saw the Lord that's all, and what good did it do to all those people who saw the man Jesus but did not see that God was in Him? They died in their sins.)

Therefore we should be *15 Looking diligently* (not dilatory, but diligently looking. We should be looking with a pain staking effort. That is what he is saying.) *lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; 16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold*

his birthright. 17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears. 18 For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, 19 And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: 20 (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: 21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:) 22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. 25 See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: 26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. 27 And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: 29 For our God is a consuming fire.