

Cornerstone Church

October 16, 2016

**Sermon Series: Practicing Our Readiness Drills for
Christ's Return - Seeking God's Guidance from 1st and
2nd Peter**

Today's Sermon: Rejoicing in Our Trials?

Today's Passages: 1 Peter 1:5-7

[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. (1 Peter 1:5-7 ESV)

Introduction

Main point: For those who are truly saved, there is nothing that can alter their eternal destiny and deny them their salvation since it is being protected by the power of God. This causes them to rest confidently in the midst of persecution and never lose hope.

Review:

[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! 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, [4] to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, (1 Peter 1:3-4 ESV)

1. Our eternal salvation is being guarded by the power of God.
 - The same power God used to raise Jesus from the dead is “being” used to keep us from falling away into disbelief.

- Picture your Christian journey through life (like Pilgrim's Progress) as a special ops soldier on a mission behind enemy lines.
 - Some commentators picture this as soldiers inside a fortress but I think that image is far too passive.
 - What gives that soldier confidence he will come home alive?
 - His training, his weaponry, his skills, his knowledge of the enemy, yes but,
 - Far more important is his confidence (faith) in his C.O.
 - Let's examine how this spiritual faith works:
 - ✓ It comes from God, not from us. **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. (Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV)** Yet,
 - ✓ It is “our” faith!! But that faith is dependent on God continuing to give us faith. **[31] “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, [32] but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” (Luke 22:31-32 ESV)**
 - ✓ It is the same faith exercised at conversion that continues to be employed by us and God throughout our lives “**to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.**” (Acts 26:18 ESV) The word “who are sanctified” is a perfect passive in Greek, meaning the action is already accomplished but the result of the action continues on in full force.
 - ✓ Therefore, as we go through life and face the hardships of attacks by the devil, we will not ever lose our trust in God (although at times we may stumble, like Peter, but we may never fall as to never get up).
 - ✓ This is not the same as those who trust in the “Once prayed always saved” philosophy that is not genuine salvation, but rather “Once turned always turned” which is genuine salvation seen in the Thessalonians: **For they themselves report**

concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 ESV)

- That “faith-protecting power” will insure we will receive the salvation we do not presently experience. **“for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”**
 - Our salvation is both now and then. The part that we are waiting for is more than just Glory (Heaven) and our sinless state, it is. . .
 - The ultimate destruction of Satan and his forces which have threatened (albeit an infinitely small threat) our salvation and God's eternal glory. That is why Peter said this aspect of salvation will be revealed in the last time and therefore is not currently being experienced by those who have passed away. See Revelation 20:7-10
- 2. Genuine Christians are buoyed by a deep joy that comes from knowing 1) that God both keeps the inheritance and the inheritor intact to the end, and 2) that our trials have a strategic purpose in our lives. **[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.**
- The world's joy comes mostly from pleasant circumstances, whereas the believer's joy comes from pleasant knowledge and divine guarantees.
- Our joy in the midst of great trials can be described as
 - a) supreme confidence, b) light-heartedness (in contrast to depression) c) physical energy to endure, d) actual smiles and emotional contentment.

- Merriam-Webster: Joy is the emotion of well-being caused by possessing what one desires.

For example: If in the midst of trials (such as torture or imprisonment) you desire to possess comfort you will experience the lack of joy but,

If in the midst of trials you desire to possess eternal life and to become as much like Jesus as God will make you, then you will experience joy as defined above.

- Becoming like Jesus in preparation for our eternal rest is the 2nd motivating cause for our joy.
 - Peter says that God may find it “necessary” to send trials our way to hone and refine us to become more like Jesus.
 - This honing is to prove our faith is genuine (**so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire**), which
 - Will result in a tangible reward such as receiving praise, glory and honor from the lips of Jesus when He returns and distributes the proportionate inheritances waiting for us at the BEMA seat of Christ.
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