

Peter's First Epistle

I-PETER

CHAPTER 4:7-11

TAPE SM. #262 ~ JUNE 1, 1997

TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

"THESE FIERY TRIALS"

THE CHRISTIANS JOURNEY THROUGH THE WILDERNESS OF THE WORLD

THEME OF THE BOOK:

1 Peter 5:12

I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

INTRODUCTION: Reading of the Text 4:7-11

You Bible students take notice here...

Peter's words to the believers throughout Asia minor, were coming to them just prior to the terrible persecutions that were soon to come upon them from Nero and others.

Peter lists 10 Commandments that are musts for the victorious Christian

1/10 Being Sober	v.7
2/10 Being Watchful unto prayer	v.7
3/10 Having Fervent Love	v.8
4/10 Being Hospitable	v.9
5/10 Using Your Spiritual Gifts	v.10-11
6/10 Thinking Clearly	v.12
7/10 Rejoicing	v.13
8/10 Being not Ashamed	v.15-16
9/10 Glorifying God	v.16-18
10/10 Committing Yourself to Him	v.19

2 Corinthians 8:2

How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality

Hebrews 11:36 KJV

And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

1 Peter 1:7 KJV

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:

1 Peter 4:12 KJV

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

1.) THE ORIGIN OF TRIALS

Trials are from God - Temptations are from the Satan

Trials are to drive us closer to God

Temptations are to drive us away from God

Trials result in a deeper walk with God

Temptations result in a weaker walk with God

Temptations are not the sin. the sin is when we yield to the temptation

They are specially “Engineered by God”

I need to understand that God has created a very unique relationship, and it is for my absolute good.

But like a child, I often fight against God and His plan.

(I want you to clean your room)

“Why is this be happening to me”

They come from the throne room and heart of God

2.) THE PURPOSE FOR TRIALS

They are a necessary “exercise” for the believer

They confirm the word that was sown

They assure our faith in the word

They equip us to assist others

a.) Trails “Expose to Us” what we are made of

b.) Trials “Culture Us” in the Kingdom Life
like a pearl

c.) Trials “Develop within Us” His character

d.) Trials “Establish Us” a place in the Family God

3.) THE NATURE OF TRIALS

They are a necessary exercise for every Christian,
because its true - trials are difficult by nature

We will struggle with feelings and emotions like;

Isolation

Loneliness

What I call “crushing stress”

This state of “feelings and emotions” must be brought under control...

God is Faithful, Firm, and Trustworthy. Faith in God and rest in His attributes is what rushes in to bring peace and assurance.

So why do we panic in a trial?

"I feel as though I should have better treatment than this."
(a wrong view of trials - hindu's. Not in my car-ma)

"I feel as though God doesn't love me."

"I feel as though the Bible cannot be trusted in."

Preventatives against panic!

- a.) Find your biblical equivalent or hero
(what is going on with me is what happened to David, Jeremiah, Nehemiah,
and everybody's all time trial favorite... Mr. Job)
- b.) Act rather than React
- c.) Trust in His Promises
- d.) Rest in His Grip
- e.) Wait for His Hope

Verse 12

expect suffering
by nature, we are different from the rest of the world

2 Corinthians 6:14-17 KJV

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ¹⁶ And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord,

PERSECUTION & ATTACK IS SUCH A NATURAL THING TO EXPECT FROM THE WORLD. THEY ARE OPPOSING KINGDOMS

In fact, the lack of persecution is an alarming indication that the world system is not being affected by my Christianity at all - I'm making no difference at all

Luke 6:26 KJV

Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

James 4:4 NIV

You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Verse 13-14

Rejoice in suffering

Overjoyed by association
being connected to Jesus resulted in great resilience to suffering

Suffering guarantees fellowship with Jesus

Verse 14

suffering brings a special grace of God's presences

The Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3:22-25 KJV

Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³ And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. ²⁴ Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. ²⁵ He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

Acts 7:9-10 KJV

And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him, ¹⁰ And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

God will not replace suffering with Glory
He will Transform suffering into Glory

John 16:21

"A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world.

Night Aches

in my pre-teens and youth, I remember having gross knee and joint aches at night... the pain seemed useless to me

N.T. Examples

Acts 6:15

And all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel.

Acts 7:55-56

⁵⁵ But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, ⁵⁶ and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

Suffering gives us all the opportunity to glorify God

Tell people you're a Baptist, and it really won't make a difference
Tell you're a Methodist or a Lutheran, they won't care.
But tell them your "a Christian" and watch what happens

The title "Christian" was a curse word in the times of the disciples

Christians at Antioch
(Acts 11)

Polycarp was Bishop of the church at Smyrna
arrested and found guilty of being a Christian he was tied to the stake and to set ablaze...

Verse 15-18

examine our lives

Verse 16

Verse 17

Verse 18

Verse 19

Commit yourself to God