

Encouragement For The Trials – August 01, 2007

"Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison." (2 Cor 4:16,17) Paul is encouraging us not to lose heart at the afflictions and persecutions that come upon us (2 Cor 4:8,9) In the book of Acts, Paul strengthened the souls of the disciples in Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, "encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, 'Through many tribulations (afflictions, persecutions, distresses) we must enter the kingdom of God.'" (Acts 14:22) The word of God encourages us in the midst of our tests and trials by giving us hope in their purpose and desired result.

Ultimately, the various trials that we face are for the testing of our faith, which is to result in "praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ ... and the outcome of our faith, the salvation of our souls." (1 Pet 1:6,7,9) In the book of Romans we are reminded to "exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us." (Rom 5:3-5) God truly works all things together for good to those who love Him. James encourages us to consider it all joy, when we encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of our faith produces endurance (patience), with its perfect result being that we may be perfect (mature) and complete (fully equipped), lacking in nothing. (Jam 1:2-4) The many challenges and difficult circumstances the Lord allows us to go through are to bring us more and more into the fullness of Him that we might be a living epistle and a representation of Jesus Christ in the earth. We are called to not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. James again gives us some hope for our trials in verse twelve of his epistle: "Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial (temptation) for once he has been approved (passed the test), he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him." (Jam 1:12)

Therefore, brethren, let us lay aside every encumbrance (weight) and sin which so easily entangles us and look unto Jesus. Having the same mind as Paul, considering the suffering of this present time not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed in us. (Rom 8:18) "Blessed be the God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (1 Pet 1:3)

Amen

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Ephesians 1:1-14; Matthew 25:14-30

Description: The Lord has granted such precious and magnificent promises for those who are faithful in Christ Jesus. To these He has blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places and has given compensating grace and power for every trial and revealed area in their hearts. Let us allow the Holy Spirit to conform us into the image of Jesus and be found as good and faithful servants of our Master.

God Bless,

Joey
Christ Our Life