

Title: The Power of Hope

Passage: 1 Peter 1:6-9

Introduction

Living Hope - the importance of having our hope in eternal salvation in Jesus Christ.

- the more we focus on our living hope, God's kingdom - the things of this world seem less and less important

Passage: 1 Peter 1:6-9

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 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. 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, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

EXPOSITION

Recap

1 Peter 1

v. 3-5 Living Hope

v. 6-9 Joy and Love (outflow because of living hope)

- based on deeper reality (not on circumstances)

Joy

- What is joy?
 - Not based on circumstances
 - Based on deeper reality of life.
- True, lasting hope come from deep, rooted confidence that one possesses eternal life through belief in the resurrected Christ.

Overview:

Why can Christians have joy?

1. Christians rejoice because of their living hope
2. Christians rejoice because we know our God ordained our trials and sufferings
3. Christians rejoice because they know they will be rewarded
4. Christians rejoice because they know that they love Christ and will see Him.

I. Christians rejoice because of their living hope (v.6a)

"In this you rejoice,"

- What is "this"?
- Living hope of Christ. Your faith is an eternal inheritance that is kept and guarded by God.
- Intense emotion of rejoicing.

II. Christians rejoice because we know God ordained our trials and sufferings (v.6b-7a)

though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 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.

Characteristics of Trials

A. Trials are temporary

“For a little while”

- Trials are transient and temporary compared to all of eternity
- Not meaning it will be brief as to seasons but only when compared to eternity. It may be a lifetime

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

B. Trials are purposeful

“if necessary,”

- Trials are tailor-made by God (not universal or identical for all)
- God decides what you need. God is directly involved in trials
- God allows things to happen. Why? His purpose is to sanctify us.

Question: Why does God allow suffering?

- Sometimes we don't know. Ultimately God decides in His sovereignty for His purposes.

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

- Sometimes to humble us and show how dependable we are on God

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

- Sometimes to take us away from worldly things and point us to heaven
- Sometimes to value God's blessings in our lives
- Sometimes to equip us to comfort others in trials

2 Corinthians 1:4

who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

- Sometimes to discipline us (Hebrews 12)
- Sometimes to help strengthen our character

Key Point: “No ounce of suffering is wasted. God is always using it for greater purpose and for His glory. Trust Him.”

C. Trials are various

“you have been grieved by various trials, “

- various = variety = different sorts and colors

Type of trials

1. Because standing up for the Gospel

Luke 8:13 (Parable of Sower/Soils)

And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away.

Matthew 13:21

yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.

seeds that fell on the rock = trials are because you are standing firm in the Gospel

2. Lacking provision or protection or position or sense of belonging

Hebrews 3:7-8

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness,

3. Bodily ailments and seeing others physically suffering

Galatians 4:13-11

You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first, and though my condition was a trial to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus.

4. Direct attacks by the Evil One

Matthew 26:40-41

And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation [trial]. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

D. Trials are the proving ground for our faith

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.

- Trials come for testing, which prove the genuineness of our faith.
 - Not about amount of faith but genuineness
- Trials separate from superficial faith from genuine faith.

Analogy: Bar of iron ore

- Starting point: \$10 cost
- If molded to make
 - Horse shoes: \$50 worth
 - Sewing needles: \$4,000 worth
 - Watch springs: \$150,000 worth
- Why the difference in worth? The amount of heat by which the iron bar was tempered and honed.
- Likewise: God allows more testing to refine our faith and grow us.

"Grieved by various trials"

- Grieved = anguish, deep distress
 - Same word used in Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsamane (sweating drops of blood)

Luke 22:44

And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

- Verb tense: present (grieving)

- Meaning: At the same time, we are grieving and rejoicing in trials,

Question: How can we have both grief and joy?

Answer: Only a born-again Christian can have great sorrow and great joy.

- if you are in a time of deep sorrow, consider where is your ultimate hope?
- Sorrows and trials are meant to refine us to glorify God - to love even more for God and heaven.
- "I have learned to kiss the waves that throw me against the Rock of Ages." (Charles Spurgeon)
 - All things happen tailored made by God so that we can be thrown more into the arms of God.
 - Christ is always near to us

Example: Job

Job 1:20-22

Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."

In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

- Job was in both grief and joy
 - Fell on the ground = grief
 - Worshipped = joy

Job 19:25

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth.

- in the midst of trial, there is always hope and certainty of the future.

Example: Jesus

Matthew 26:37, 42

And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled....Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

Example: Joseph

Genesis 50:20

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Application: It's ok to cry out to God

- Express our emotions. See Psalms of Lament

Psalms 38:9-10

O Lord, all my longing is before you; my sighing is not hidden from you. My heart throbs; my strength fails me, and the light of my eyes—it also has gone from me.

- Knowing at the same time, God cares for you.
- Also, it is good to sit next to others who cry (not preach or direct but listen).

III. Christians rejoice because they know they will be rewarded. (v. 7b)

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.

- Trials will result in praise and glory and honor for us.

Christians will receive praise and glory from God

Romans 2:29

But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

Matthew 25:21 (Parable of Talents)

His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

Romans 2:6-7, 10

He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life;...but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.

John 17:22

The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,

1 John 3:2

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Christians will receive rewards

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

- All the trials and sufferings will pay off at forthcoming day before God.

IV. Christians rejoice because they know they love Christ and will see Him.(v.8-9)

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, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Question of Reflection:

When you think of Christ, do you love Him?

- consider His tender heart?
- cannot turn away from Him?
- turn to Him even in weakness?

Psalms 119:50

This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life.