

# **Do Not Think It Strange Concerning The Fiery Trial Which Is To Try You**

**March 22, 2020**

**I Pet 4:12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;**

(All Scriptures, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the New King James Bible.)

## **A. The intended result from today's message**

- To encourage us in the face of trial.

## **B. The present world situation**

There is a lot not to like about the present world situation:

- The threat of disease and in some cases even death,
- Financial uncertainty, for some extreme financial uncertainty,
- Perhaps being physically disconnected from loved ones,
- The disruption of our comfortable routines,
- The disruption of major life events and travel plans,
- Any number of connected hardships and inconveniences.

Even with this Sunday morning format:

- Not having Praise and Worship together,
- Not having the comfort and encouragement that comes with just being together and fellowshiping with one another.

## **C. A better life comes from facing trials with faith**

All of that being said, difficulty, hardship and even suffering, when we encounter them in the right way, produce an

accelerated spiritual growth in us, a deeper experience of God and a better life.

**I Pet 1:6-9** 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 ***that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ***, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—***the salvation of your souls***.

- None of us wish to be grieved by various trials.
- Yet the genuineness of our faith is proven by testing.
- Therefore in the middle of trial, we rejoice.
- And we receive the salvation of our souls.
- Think of where you are now compared to before you were saved.

**James 1:2-4** 2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

- It is greatly to our advantage to endure difficulty with faith.
- An essential component of faith is rejoicing.

**James 1:21-22** 21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to ***save your souls***. 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

- The faith James is talking about involves:

- Receiving the Word of God,
- With meekness allowing it to be implanted in our hearts,
- And doing it.
- This results in the saving of our souls.
- Being made perfect and complete = The salvation of our souls.

#### **D. What Peter says we should do in the face of trial**

**I Pet 1:13-15** 13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, "**Be holy, for I am holy.**"

**I Pet 1:13(a) NLT** So think clearly and exercise self-control.

**I Pet 1:22** *Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren*, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

**I Pet 2:1** Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,

**I Pet 2:11** Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, ***abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,***

- Peter then goes on to describe:
  - Submission to government,
  - Submission to masters,
  - Submission to husbands,
  - Husbands honouring wives,

- Submission to spiritual authorities.

- He describes that this is what we have been called to, even when it is difficult.

**I Pet 2:21-25** 21 ***For to this you were called***, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

22 "Who committed no sin,

Nor was deceit found in His mouth";

23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, ***but***

***committed Himself to Him who judges***

***righteously***; 24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, ***but***

***have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.***

- Concerning our souls we have read about:

- The salvation of our souls,
- The purifying of our souls,
- Abstaining from fleshly lusts which war against our souls,
- Jesus as the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls.

**I Pet 3:8-13** 8 Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; 9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, ***but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.*** 10 For "He who would love life

And see good days,

Let him refrain his tongue from evil,

And his lips from speaking deceit.

11 Let him turn away from evil and do good;

Let him seek peace and pursue it.

12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,

And His ears are open to their prayers;

But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

13 And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?

**I Pet 4:12** Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

### **E. Dwelling in the secret place of the Most High**

**Psa 91:1-2** 1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."

- The secret place of the Most High is wherever we are, as we allow Him to be the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls, as we are in faith, the kind of faith:
  - That yields to and follows Him,
  - The depends upon Him for safety and security.
- Faith:
  - Rejoices,
  - Obeys,
  - Confesses.

**Psa 91:3-11 NLT** 3 For he will rescue you from every trap **and protect you from deadly disease**. 4 He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection. 5 Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night, nor the arrow that flies in the day. 6 **Do not dread the disease that stalks in**

**darkness**, nor the disaster that strikes at midday. 7 Though a thousand fall at your side, though ten thousand are dying around you, these evils will not touch you. 8 Just open your eyes, and see how the wicked are punished. 9 **If you make the Lord your refuge, if you make the Most High your shelter, 10 no evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your home**. 11 For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go.

- Doc Horton flood testimony.