

Do Not Think It Strange

You Have Been Grieved By Various Trials

March 29, 2020

I Pet 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

(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.

- As we said in our two Refresh sessions this last week, what the devil means for harm, God turns to our advantage.
- This is incredibly frustrating for the devil. He concocts elaborate plans to oppose and discourage us and not only do his plans not work but they produce the opposite effect to what he intended. We become:
 - Stronger spiritually,
 - More vibrant in our faith,
 - More effective in what He has called us to.
- I should mention about our Refresh sessions:
 - This last week we did two.
 - You can see them on our Youtube channel.
 - For those who are unfamiliar with how to find our channel, it is very easy:
 - Go to youtube.com,
 - In the search field, type in "bretonword" and click on the search button.
 - We plan on doing several Refresh sessions each week.
 - They are five minutes or less.
 - In each Refresh we review a key thought from the previous Sunday.
 - They are a daily dose of divine encouragement.

D. You have been grieved by various trials

I Pet 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

- The Greek word translated "grieved" is *lupeo*, meaning to distress.
- It is the same word used by Paul in I Thessalonians:

I Thess 4:13-14 13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you **sorrow** as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

- Paul is saying here that our loved ones who have died in Jesus are now with Jesus and we will see them again.
- Therefore, although we genuinely grieve the loss of our loved ones, our grief is not like those who have no hope.
- Paul is not denying that we truly grieve. However the manner in which we grieve is greatly impacted by the hope that we have.
- Similarly, Peter does not deny the grief we feel when we encounter various trials and perhaps suffer loss in those trials.
 - List of trials ...
 - If you are being grieved by any trials, just like Peter, you do not need to deny the reality of that grief.
 - A couple of days ago, I was watching an evening news program and they were interviewing a child psychologist who was advising parents that due to disruption of routines and such their children may be suffering grief.
- Grief is an affliction of our soul. We feel it in our soul.
- Peter has a lot to say about our souls:

I Pet 1:8-9 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**.

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

I Pet 2:25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the **Shepherd and Overseer of your souls**.

- All of these thoughts work together.
- The three aspects of salvation ...
- An example of the second aspect of salvation: **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.
- As with James, Peter is primarily speaking of the second aspect of salvation:
 - The salvation of our soul and the purification of our soul are the same thing. They work as our **faith** expresses itself through obedience. The fruits of the Spirit are among the benefits.
 - Just as trusting obedience saves our soul, yielding to fleshly lusts wars against our soul.
 - Jesus is actively engaged, right now, in helping us yield to His Word. He is the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls.
- So Peter is both acknowledging that his readers are feeling grief and exhorting them to respond to the trials and grief with faith.

E. Rejoicing as a step of faith

Part of the response of faith is rejoicing:

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*.

- Notice again that Peter does not deny they are feeling some measure of grief.
- But faith is an alternate motivator.
- We can act out of faith and not out of feeling.
- We can rejoice as a choice of belief in the Word of God even though we may not initially feel like it.
- This kind of faith, this kind of rejoicing, has the effect of saving our souls. It drives out the grief.
- It turns out that we love life and see good days.

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.

Matt 5:11-12 11 Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 *Rejoice and be exceedingly glad*, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

F. What does rejoicing look like?

- Putting a smile on your face,
- Lifting your voice,
- Praising and thanking Him,
- Laughing,
- Dancing,

- Coming to recognize the prompting of the Holy Spirit.
- Illustration of Cale's healing ...
It may feel mechanical at first but there needs to be a first step of faith.
We can apply all of this to Praise and Worship at church.