

MANIFOLD TEMPTATIONS – Part 3

1 Peter 1:6

⁶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through MANIFOLD TEMPTATIONS: ⁹ Receiving the END OF YOUR FAITH, even the salvation of your souls.

This is (or should be) the goal of every believer—to receive the end of our faith. This is because the promises of God (salvation) is received, not at the beginning, but at the end of our faith. But, it takes ENDURANCE to reach the end!

Matthew 24:13

¹³ But he that shall ENDURE TO THE END, the same shall be saved.

1 Corinthians 10:13

¹³ There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make A WAY to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

1 Corinthians 10:13 *The American Standard Version*

¹³ There hath no temptation taken you but such as man can bear: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation make also THE WAY of escape, that ye may be able to ENDURE IT.

God doesn't simply make "a way" of escape. He makes "the way" of escape. In other words, there's only ONE way to escape a trial, and that's to *bear* (endure) it! You can't go around trials. You must ENDURE trials! In fact, enduring your trials is the only way to escape them. How can we know that we're enduring our trials?

You know you are enduring a trial...

WHEN YOU REMAIN IN FAITH

You don't endure trials simply by experiencing them. You endure trials WHEN you *believe* through them!

James 1:2, 3

² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³ Knowing this, that the trying of your FAITH WORKETH PATIENCE.

Notice, faith works (or produces) endurance. Therefore, if there is no faith, then there can be no endurance!

How can we ensure that we remain in faith? We remain in faith by maintaining our confession.

Hebrews 10:23

²³ Let us HOLD FAST THE PROFESSION OF OUR FAITH WITHOUT WAVERING; (for he is faithful that promised;)

Hebrews 10:23 *The American Standard Version*

²³ let us HOLD FAST THE CONFESSION OF OUR HOPE THAT IT WAVER NOT; for he is faithful that promised:

In other words, our faith will waver when our confession wavers! In fact, one of the first things to go is not our faith, but rather our confession.

You know you are enduring a trial...

WHEN YOU REMAIN IN FELLOWSHIP

Hebrews 10:24, 25

²⁴ And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: ²⁵ NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

The idea here is that our ability to not waver in our hope (faith), not only requires that we maintain our *confession* (**verse 23**), it also requires that we maintain our *fellowship* with other believers. In fact, anyone who stays out of fellowship with the saints, probably won't endure in their trials.

Hebrews 3:13, 14

¹³ But EXHORT ONE ANOTHER daily, while it is called To day; LEST ANY OF YOU BE HARDENED through the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we are made partakers of Christ, if we HOLD THE BEGINNING OF OUR CONFIDENCE STEDFAST UNTO THE END;

We need regular exhortation from believers to remain confident in the faith.

You know you are enduring a trial...

WHEN YOU REFUSE TO FOCUS ON YOUR PRESENT CONDITION

Hebrews 12:1, 2

¹ Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, ² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who **FOR THE JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM ENDURED THE CROSS**, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jesus endured the cross BECAUSE He refused to focus on His present condition (i.e. the shame). We must do the same!

2 Corinthians 4:16, 18

¹⁶ For which cause **WE FAINT NOT**; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. ¹⁸ **WHILE WE LOOK NOT AT THE THINGS WHICH ARE SEEN**, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Notice what causes men to faint—looking on things which are *seen*.

You know you are enduring a trial...

WHEN YOU REFUSE TO FEAR

Hebrews 11:27

²⁷ **By faith he forsook Egypt, NOT FEARING the wrath of the king: for HE ENDURED, as SEEING HIM WHO IS INVISIBLE.**

Again, Moses endured because his focus was not on the wrath of the king, but on Him (God) who is invisible. But, he ALSO endured because he would not fear! Therefore, if we're fearing, then we're not enduring!

How do we avoid (overcome) fear?

1 John 4:18

¹⁸ **There is no fear in love; but PERFECT LOVE CASTETH OUT FEAR: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.**

We overcome fear by being made perfect in love. We're made made perfect in love when we love one another...

1 John 4:12

12 No man hath seen God at any time. IF WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER, God dwelleth in us, and HIS LOVE IS PERFECTED IN Us.

AND when we keep God's word.

1 John 2:5

5 But WHOSO KEEPETH HIS WORD, in him verily is THE LOVE OF GOD PERFECTED: hereby know we that we are in him.

Finally, you know you are enduring a trial...

WHEN YOU ARE LOSING SOMETHING

Luke 22:31

31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may SIFT YOU AS WHEAT:

Jesus is comparing being tempted with being sifted. This is because when wheat is sifted it loses something! For example, when wheat is sifted the stalk (stem) is separated from the grain during the "threshing" stage. (This is the stage where the wheat is spread out on to the ground and beaten with a flail.) After this, the chaff (husk) is separated from the grain during the "winnowing" stage. (This is the stage where the wheat is tossed repeatedly into the air until the chaff is separated from the grain.)

Therefore, TWO things are lost during the sifting process—the stalk and the chaff. Similarly, TWO things should be lost whenever we're tempted—the flesh and spirit.

2 Corinthians 7:1

1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us CLEANSE OURSELVES from all filthiness of THE FLESH AND SPIRIT, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

The "flesh" represents our wicked works, while "spirit" represents wicked attitudes and thoughts. Moreover, suffering helps us to separate us from from sinful actions. However, we need the wind of the Spirit to help separate us from what's in our hearts.

2 Corinthians 3:15–17 *The Good News Bible*

15 Even today, whenever they read the Law of Moses, THE VEIL STILL COVERS THEIR MINDS. 16 But it can be removed, as the scripture says about

Moses: “His veil was removed when he turned to the Lord.” ¹⁷ Now, “the Lord” in this passage is the Spirit; and WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS PRESENT, THERE IS FREEDOM.

This “veil” represents a blindness that’s upon the hearts of the Jews. Moreover, because this blindness is on their hearts, it can only be removed by the Spirit.

Unless we turn to the Spirit in the midst of our trials we will never lose the spirit (thinking, feeling, attitudes) of this world. It will continue to “cover” our heart like the husk over wheat.

(Trials are not only supposed to help us change the way we act. They’re also supposed to help us change the way we think.)