

Pastor Jason Huffman
9/14/2025

Teaching Notes:

Title: In Case of Fire

Big Idea: Fiery trials will come; be ready to respond rightly.

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.

1. Remember you are loved.

In the school of life, we will all be tested. But it is the heat that brings the dross & impurities to the surface.

2. Plan to trust & glorify God.

In every trial big or small, plan to take the opportunity to demonstrate your faith & bring glory to God.

The word strange: *xenizō*: it is often used of receiving a guest.

3. Don't be surprised.

13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad about exceeding joy.

4. Rejoice in Christ.

We can rejoice & have joy no matter the circumstance because joy is relational.
We can grieve & have a deep joy being connected to Christ.

14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part, He is glorified.

5. Show His rest.

A powerful way people can see the Spirit of God resting on you is to see the rest you have from the Spirit of God.

17 For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? **18** Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

19 Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

6. Be committed to doing good.

Acts 16:22 Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded *them* to be beaten with rods. 23 And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw *them* into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. 24 Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. 25 But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

Sermon Recap

Have you ever wondered how to find joy in life's fiercest flames? This transformative message unpacks six practical actions to take in life's "fiery trials." Whether you're walking through flames now or preparing for future challenges, this message offers hope and practical wisdom for turning trials into triumph.

Discussion Questions

Pastor Jason emphasizes that we are 'beloved' even in trials. Why is it important to remember our identity as beloved by God when going through difficult times?

- The sermon points out that one of the first things to go when faith is tested is our belief in God's love, often thinking 'God must not love me if He would let this happen to me.'
- Have you ever doubted God's love in a trial? Did you ever overcome it? If so, how?

The message discusses how trials reveal what's truly inside us. What are some ways that difficult situations expose our real priorities and beliefs?

- Pastor Jason shared that trials can push us to the edge of our knowledge, drive us to the end of ourselves, and reveal our fears and weaknesses.
- Has a trial brought you closer to Christ or farther from Christ? Why do you think that happened?

According to 1 Peter 4:12-13, why should Christians not be surprised by fiery trials, and what should our response be instead?

- The message explains that trials aren't strange guests but common visitors for us all, and we can rejoice as we have fellowship in Christ's sufferings.
- How can we shift our mindset from being surprised by trials to expecting and even rejoicing in them?

How does the sermon's example of Paul and Silas singing hymns in prison demonstrate the power of maintaining your faith during trials?

- The message describes how Paul and Silas, despite being beaten and imprisoned, chose to pray and sing hymns, leading to the jailer's conversion.
- What would it look like in your life to respond to difficulties with worship rather than complaints?

Pastor Jason talks about how the Spirit of God resting on us enables us to 'stay cool in the fire.' What does this mean practically in everyday life?

- The message discusses how people may not see the light of Christ in us until darkness surrounds us, and how our rest in God during trials can be a powerful witness.
- How could our response to current challenges demonstrate to others that God's Spirit rests upon us?

Prayer Prompts

- Ask God to grant us the wisdom to make wise choices that reflect His love and purpose.
 - Pray for the strength to trust in His plan during our trials and to find joy in His presence.
 - Encourage each other to be committed to doing good, even in the face of challenges.
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5 Day Devotional

This five-day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the sermon from this weekend. We will explore how to navigate the fiery trials in our lives by understanding our identity in Christ, trusting in His promises, and finding joy in His presence.

Day 1

1 Peter 4:12

In the sermon, we were reminded that trials are an inevitable part of life, and they should not catch us by surprise. Being God's "beloved," as Peter calls us, reassures us of God's love and presence, even in the midst of suffering. It's easy to question God's love when faced with challenges, but our trials serve as evidence of His refining work, bringing impurities to the surface and strengthening our faith.

As we embark on our spiritual journey, it's crucial to understand our identity as loved by God. This grounding truth enables us to approach any fiery trial not as a strange or foreign experience, but as an opportunity to demonstrate our faith and trust in His promises. Take heart, for trials are not the end; they are the means by which God reveals our true priorities and purpose through the trials that test our faith.

- How do trials challenge your perception of God's love?
- What are some false beliefs about God that hardship exposes in your heart?
- How can you remind yourself that you are beloved by God during challenging times?
- Pray for a deeper understanding of your identity as beloved by God.
- Ask God for the strength to embrace and grow through life's trials.

Day 2

1 Peter 4:13

There is an invitation in our trials: a call to rejoice. When we partake in Christ's sufferings, we enter a unique fellowship with Him that transcends the pain of our circumstances. This fellowship brings joy and hope, knowing that just as Christ overcame, so too can we look forward to joy and victory in His future glory. Our connection with Christ anchors us, not just in sorrow but within a joyful bond that strengthens us to face adversity with resilience.

Trials form a relational bridge between us and Christ, fostering a bond that transforms our perspective. Rejoice not because of the pain, but because of the closeness it brings to our Savior. Consider life's challenges as opportunities to deepen your relationship with Christ and to find a shared joy even amidst pain. Embrace the hope and assurance that in enduring trials, we showcase the faithfulness of Jesus and the joy of His eternal kingdom.

- When have you witnessed joy amidst suffering?

- How does sharing in Christ's suffering change your approach to daily challenges?
- What aspects of God's character can you celebrate amid trials?
- Pray for the ability to rejoice in trials as opportunities to know Christ better.
- Seek gratitude for His presence and purpose in your afflictions.

Day 3

1 Peter 4:14

Experiencing reproach for bearing the name of Christ is often perceived as a misfortune when, in reality, it is a blessing. Trials and reproach are indications that the Spirit of God is upon us, illuminating His presence to others through our faith and rest in Him. In the midst of darkness and hostility, our peace and testimony can shine as a beacon of hope and light.

As believers, the way we respond to dark times reveals God's work in and through us. It's not about the absence of difficulties but our reliance on God's Spirit within them. Remember, the world observes Christ through us, especially when life is toughest. Let us not allow the shadows of trials to dim the light of Christ shining through our lives; instead, may our conduct testify of His glory.

- How do you respond when others question your faith during hardships?
- In what ways can you allow Christ's light to shine through you during trials?
- Who in your life needs to see Jesus during your current trials?
- Pray for courage and clarity to honor God amid adversity.
- Seek wisdom to make your life a testimony of His grace and peace.

Day 4

1 Peter 4:19

The scripture exhorts us to commit our souls to God and to continue doing good during our sufferings. This involves an understanding that our trials form part of His greater purpose and plan. Embracing this mindset requires trust in God's faithfulness and a commitment to His ways, no matter the circumstances we face. God is our faithful Creator who brings something good out of every trial.

The faithful are called to remain proactive in doing good, even when life seems difficult. Our good works in the face of adversity serve as a testimony to God's enduring covenant with us. By committing ourselves to good deeds, motivated by His love, we participate in His redemptive work for His glory. Such commitment is both a challenge and a blessing as it asks us to shift our focus from our struggles to serving His kingdom purposes.

- What opportunities do you have to do good while facing your current challenges?
- How can committing to good deeds affect your walk with Christ?
- Has anyone's acts of kindness during trials inspired you toward faith?
- Pray for perseverance in doing good despite hardships.
- Ask God to open your eyes to the good works He's calling you to fulfill.

Day 5

1 Peter 4:17

The judgment of God begins with His house and acts as a refining fire for believers. It serves to expose hidden sins and idols, calling for a deeper alignment with Him and taking away what holds us captive. This fiery process may seem daunting, but it is intended for purification, intended to awaken us to His righteous standards without fear of destruction.

As we stand under His purifying eye, it is a time of renewal and redemption. Let us willingly partake in this transformative work, embracing the refining process as a chance to grow in holiness and commitment to Christ. By entrusting our souls to God and striving to live obediently, we prepare ourselves to witness His glory at work in our lives and the lives of those around us.

- What aspects of your life may need refinement?
- How does God's judgment invite you to align more closely with His ways?

- Consider how allowing God to purify and renew your heart has shaped your faith journey.
- Pray for courage to face the refining fire of God's judgment with faith.
- Seek His guidance to remove idols and purify your heart for His purposes.