

"What Trials Produce," Part 4 - 2 Corinthians 1:10-11 – July 10th, 2016

- Today's teaching will be part four of a series I've titled, "What Trials Produce."
- My desire for this series is that we would take from it a fresh and renewed hope when we find ourselves in the midst of a trial.
- This because, of what God produces both in and through us by way of the fiery trials that He allows into our lives as Christians.

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NKJV) — 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,

1. Peace with the Lord (Verses 1-2)

- The Apostle Paul begins with a familiar greeting saying grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Comfort from the Lord (Verses 3-4)

- Paul says God is the Father of compassion Who comforts us in trials, so we can comfort others with the comfort we received.

3. Endurance in the Lord (Verses 5-6)

- Paul says their distress was for our comfort and salvation, which produces a patient endurance and a triumphant overcoming.

4. Reliance upon the Lord (Verses 7-9)

- Paul says the trials were so beyond them they thought they would die but it was so they would rely on God and not themselves.

5. Deliverance by the Lord (Verse 10)

10 He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us,

- v10 Paul says they set their hope in God who delivered them from such a deadly peril and that God will deliver them once again.
- The Apostle Paul is touching on what I believe is one of the most powerful truths in all of scripture related to God's deliverance.
- Replete throughout both Old and New Testament scripture are accounts of how God delivered His people from deadly peril.

- Notice how that Paul not only delineates God's deliverance, but also authenticates deliverance in the past, present and future.
- By that I mean, God's deliverance from deadly peril in the past confirms God's deliverance in both the present and the future.
- In other words, because God delivered me in perilous and fiery trials in the past He is sure to also get me through today's trials.

- To me, one of the best examples of this is a young David who argues his case for God's deliverance from Goliath before Saul.

1 Samuel 17:31-37 - (31) Now when the words which David spoke were heard, they reported *them* to Saul; and he sent for him. (32) Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." (33) And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you *are* a youth, and he a man of war from his youth." (34) But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, (35) I went out after it and struck it, and delivered *the lamb* from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught *it* by its beard, and struck and killed it. (36) Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." (37) Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

- What David does here, is what the Apostle Paul is talking about in today's text, namely, that of the basis for God's deliverance.
- Perhaps better said, David, like Paul, recalls and recounts in the present as well as the future that which God did in the past.
- It's for this reason that we should never fear the future, nor doubt in the present, He who has always been faithful in the past.

As one so aptly said it, "Don't doubt in the dark what God did for you or showed to you in the light." God is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Charles Spurgeon said it this way, "It is wise to conclude that what God has done for us once He can and will do again. We have an unchanging helper to rely upon, and therefore we may reckon on [for] continual help.

Psalm 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

6. Prayer to the Lord (Verse 11)

11 as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

- v11 He says this will cause many to give thanks to God on their behalf for the gracious favor granted them in answered prayer.
- What's interesting about what Paul says here is that the emphasis is on the prayers of many on behalf of the Apostle Paul.
- The reason I find this interesting that one of the main things trials produce in our lives is prayer on the part of God's people.

Adam Clarke wrote, "Even an apostle felt the prayers of the Church necessary for his comfort and support. What innumerable blessings do the prayers of the followers of God draw down on those who are the objects of them!"

Romans 12:12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.