

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

Hope is Alive

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor
September 6, 2020



Big Idea: Our trials don't define us but they can refine us.

How can we ensure we are refined by our trials and not defined by our trials?

1 Peter 1:3-9 (NIV) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

- **Our trials don't define us but they can refine us.**

- **This happens by focusing on our spiritual inheritance instead of our circumstances.**

1 Peter 1:6-7 “In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

2 Corinthians 4:17 (NIV) “For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”

What trial has the Lord allowed in your life to help refine you?

Romans 5:3-5 (NLT) We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴ And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. ⁵ And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

When trials come respond in faith with confidence, perseverance, & courage.

- **Respond with Confidence.**
- **Respond with Perseverance.**
- **Respond with Courage.**

The trials (life, death, & resurrection) of Jesus, ultimately define us as Christians.



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**Hope is Alive
#2 of 5 - Sept. 6, 2020**

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?
- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?
- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you?

3) Share about a time when you allowed your circumstances to “define you” or shape your perspective. What did you learn from this experience?

4) Read 1 Peter 1:3-9. How do you think the the recipients of Peter's letter felt hearing what he wrote? How does this passage encourage you today?

5) Make a list of all the things that ours in Christ from this passage. How does focusing on our spiritual inheritance help us be refined by our trials and not defined by them?

6) Read 2 Corinthians 4:17 and Romans 5:3-5. What do these passage tells us about trials? How does this reality change our perspective and help us persevere when things get hard? How does Jesus model this for us?

7) How can you respond in faith to the trials you are facing? Highlight one specific way you can respond for each aspect and share with your Impact Community so you can pray for one another.

- How will you respond with confidence?
- How will you respond with perseverance?
- How will you respond with courage?

8) How does the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus define us as Christians? How does this make all the difference as we face trials of many kinds?



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