

HARD WORD, BUT IF WE GROW... OUR FIERY TEST

1 Peter 4:12-19

OUR LIFE, OUR CALLING

July 31, 2022

DO YOU WANT TO GROW? - DISTRACT FROM PAIN

WHAT IF GOD IS TRYING TO GROW YOU, NOT CRUSH YOU? HE LOVES YOU JUST AS YOU ARE, BUT DESIRES TO GROW YOU.

WHAT IF THE THINGS YOU ARE ADDING ARE THE VERY THINGS HE WANTS TO USE?

MAY WE BE FOUND SUFFERING, BUT NOT SURPRISED

1 Peter 4:12-13 - ^{stranger}Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ^{stranger}But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

① BELIEVED - TRUST + REALITY

② DON'T BE SURPRISED - EXPECTATION

③ TEMPT V. TEST

- JAMES 1:12-15 - DEFINITION
- JAMES 1:2-4
- LUKE 8:13

GOOD OF TESTS?

- BUILDS CHARACTER - ROMS
BACKPACK RAIN - NOW I HAVE OPPORTUNITY
- DEEPEN RELATIONSHIP
JULIANNA + ME - TRUE BEAUTY
- ONE THING TO BELIEVE IN GOD,
another to let him hold you when it's hard.

A loving God tests his people that they may be refined - Deeper character, relationships

If you love God + life is hard Don't be surprised, rejoice.

- Hebrews 12:5-11

- EVERY TEST AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DEEPER COMMUNION, GROWTH.

- PUT THINGS DOWN?

MAY WE BE FOUND INSULTED, BUT NOT ASHAMED

1 Peter 4:14-16 - ^{happy, for truth} If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ^{happy, for truth} But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ^{happy, for truth} Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

HOW SPIRIT MANIFESTS IN A DIFF WAY

ACTS 5:40-42

MATTHEW 5:10-11

WHEN TESTED GOD + FAITHFUL, THERE IS GLORY BEYOND COMPARE

Which life is better? meddle in sin or participate in joy?

Enter the faithfulness + glory and see how God uses it!

Ⓐ Is God trustworthy? Hard indeed...

We think the better life is outside the hardship of following jesus... PETER

MAY WE BE FOUND JUDGED, BUT NOT JADED

1 Peter 4:17-19 - ^{happy, for truth} For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ^{happy, for truth} And "if the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" ^{happy, for truth} Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful creator while doing good.

What is your house built on? MATTHEW - HEARDO.

Hypocrisy of church RSV:16

EZEK 9:1-6
MALACHI 3:1-4

There is a time + place for correction BUT

It is hypocritical for us to judge others for their failures while we have unaddressed, unrepentant sin in our lives.

We can't report of their sin, but we can + should report of ours!

THESS 1 - v. 17 we should want this!

FOR OUR GOOD REV. 3:15-22

ENTRUST + FOLLOW,

YOUR FAITHFULNESS LOVES YOU AND LOVES TO GROW YOU.

James 1:12-15 - Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

tempt.
B. test

James 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

distinct:
what is happening vs.
what it does

Luke 8:13 - And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. YOU WANT ROOTED FAITH.

same word.

Hebrews 12:5-11 - And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Acts 5:40-42 - ...and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

HOW DOES SOMEONE GET LIKE THIS?!

Matthew 5:10-11 - "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Ezekiel 9:1-6 - Then he cried in my ears with a loud voice, saying, "Bring near the executioners of the city, each with his destroying weapon in his hand." And behold, six men came from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with his weapon for slaughter in his hand, and with them was a man clothed in linen, with a writing case at his waist. And they went in and stood beside the bronze altar. Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub on which it rested to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed in linen, who had the writing case at his waist. And the Lord said to him, "Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it." And to the others he said in my hearing, "Pass through the city after him, and strike. Your eye shall not spare, and you shall show no pity. Kill old men outright, young men and maidens, little children and women, but touch no one on whom is the mark. And begin at my sanctuary." So they began with the elders who were before the house.

Malachi 3:1-4 - "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years."

Revelation 3:15-22 - "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation. I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'" "