

Brick by Brick – Building A Healthy Faith

The Blessings of Battle-Tested Faith

Various Texts

A faith that has never been tested is not nearly as strong as one that has endured crisis, doubt, anxiety and other obstacles and found the Lord faithful in the end!

“In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith – more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” 1 Peter 1:6-9

Two Blessings of a Battle-Tested Faith from the Apostle Thomas’s Journey:

I. The Blessing of Life *“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” John 20:30-31*

- **Believe:** to have faith, to trust in God with full confidence.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him...” John 3:16a

- **Live:** to be fully alive.

...should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16b

“Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” Romans 5:3-5

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” John 10:10

Main Idea: Faithfully Enduring a Season of Doubt Can Result in Battle-Tested Faith

II. The Blessing of Power *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8*

“Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.” Colossians 1:28-29

Multiple historical records describe the Apostle Thomas as having traveled to India in AD 52 where he preached the gospel, performed miracles, and was martyred and buried there. He was celebrated as “The Apostle of India” and many followers of Christ there today trace their spiritual heritage back to “Doubting Thomas”, a man who was devastated by doubt transformed into a missionary and martyr. And his story is still being told. How is it possible?

*So I thank God for the mountains,
And I thank Him for the valleys,
I thank him for the storms He’s brought me through.
‘Cause if I never had a problem,
I wouldn’t know that He could solve them,
I wouldn’t know what faith in His Word could do.*

*Through it all, through it all,
I’ve learned to trust in Jesus,
I’ve learned to trust in God.
Through it all, through it all,
I’ve learned to depend upon His word.*

Andrae Crouch

Have You Learned to Trust in God? Follow Jesus’ Example...

“Then he said to them, ‘My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.’ And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, ‘My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.’” Matthew 26:38-39

Jesus was about to face the worst of mankind along with the wrath of his father for the sins of the world, yet even in his moment of doubt, he willingly surrendered to God’s will. In our seasons of doubt, will we surrender to God’s will and trust him with the outcome?

Faithfully enduring a season of doubt can result in a battle-tested faith, a faith that comes with two blessings: the blessing of Life and the blessing of Power.

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities

- *Apostolic Imagination* – J.D. Payne (2022)
- *Before You Lose Your Faith* – Ivan Mesa (2021)
- *What is an Apostle?* – Alexander Strauch (2022)
- *Holeman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* – Holeman (2003)
- *Thomas* – Foxe’s Book of Martyr’s

