

Trials – 2

Life is full of trials and testing

Trials are essential to spiritual growth – Faith

Each trial is built on the trial prior to it

When we embrace the plan of God and understand that what we say, think and do as we go through the trial affects each trial from there forward

James 1:2-4, 12, 16-17

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

James 1:19

19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; NKJV

Thoughts – words – character – actions (faith) – life results
We must learn to put to death our old nature and speak the truth of God's word to get through the Trials of life

The fire of the trial is the very thing that tests our faith and brings it to perfection

Proverbs 4:23

23 Keep your heart with all vigilance; for from it flow the springs of life. RSV

Luke 6:43-45 NKJV

43 "For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. 44 For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. 45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil.

For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

- Matt. 12:33 – *make the tree good and the fruit good*
- The fruit produced through the trial is determined by the heart and the things that flow out of it
- Thoughts – words – character – actions – life results

James 3:2

2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. NKJV

- When we meditate on the Word of God it changes the things we think in our heart
- We speak what we believe
- Hearing the word produces faith – Romans 10:17
- Faith is the corresponding action to the Word of God

James 3:3-4

3 Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. 4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. NKJV

- The tongue controls the way in which we live
- Right believing – right speaking – right living (faith)

James 3:5-6 NKJV

5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it **defiles the whole body**, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

- If the tongue can defile the whole body
- The tongue can bless the whole body

James 3:11-12

11 Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh. NKJV

- **Matt. 12:33** – *make the tree good and the fruit good*

Galatians 6:7-9

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. 9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for **in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart**. NKJV

- You can not get away from this
- What are you sowing?
- You will reap it
- To reap life you must sow life seeds
- Death and life are in the tongue – sower
- The words that I speak – **John 6:63**
- Let **faith** and **patience** have her work!
- **You need both** – **Hebrews 6:12** – don't be sluggish

Romans 13:12-14

13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. NKJV

- Make no provision for the flesh – my thoughts, ways
- Make provisions for Grace – Gods thoughts, ways

James 1:14-15

14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. NKJV

- What I think on I act on
- Carnal thinking – natural desire and sin
- Spiritual thinking – God’s provision by faith
- I direct the course of my life by what I think on and speak frequently – not just once and a while

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. NKJV

- Grace works through faith
- Faith in God’s love for us – Galatians 5:6
- Grace is Gods provision
- Faith is what we use for it to manifest
- Faith activates “grace” (unmerited favor of God)
- Is everyone saved? – Is salvation available?
- Is everyone healed? – Is healing available
- Is everyone prosperous? – Is prosperity available?

Ephesians 3:20-21 NKJV

20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to **the power that works in us**, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

- Grace – exceedingly abundantly
- Faith is the “Power that works in us”

James 2:14-17

14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. NKJV

- James is saying faith is an action
- A corresponding action to the Word of God
- Healing – lay hands and pray
- Provision – give and it will be given

James 2:18-20

18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and **I will show you my faith by my works**. 19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe — and tremble! 20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? NKJV

- Just saying I have faith is not faith
- Am I willing to give what I have and believe God will meet my need? – fishes and loaves

James 2:21

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? NKJV

The word of God is seed that is planted in our hearts
As we water that seed it starts to produce faith in us
Faith is the sickle that reaps the harvest
It really boils down to what seed I am feeding “watering”

1 Peter 1:23-25

23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, 24 because

"All flesh is as grass,
And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass.
The grass withers,
And its flower falls away,
25 But the word of the LORD endures forever." NKJV

Parable of the Sower

Mark 4:13-20

13 And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? 14 The sower sows the word. 15 And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. 16 These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

17 and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble. 18 Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, 19 and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. 20 But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred." NKJV

Mark 4:30-32

30 Then He said, "To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? 31 It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; 32 but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade." NKJV

Romans 10:8

8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): NKJV

- The word of faith
- In your mouth and in your heart
- It doesn't come from somewhere else
- It comes from inside

Romans 10:10-11

10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." NKJV

- Believe and confess

Romans 10:16-17

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "LORD, who has believed our report?" 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. NKJV

- Speaking the word produces faith
- Faith acts on what we believe
- Follow me – Disciples left all to follow

Thoughts – words – character – actions – life results

- What I think on determines the words I speak
- The words I speak start to build my character (faith)
- My character affects my actions (faith)
- My actions produce my life results

My life is the sum of what I believe, say, become and act on