

Trials – 4

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, 19

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.

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 Gods 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

We need faith and patience

Hebrews 6:12

12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. NKJV

One of the keys to enduring the Trial is abiding in Him

2 Timothy 1:8-12 – Paul a prisoner

8 Therefore **do not be ashamed** of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the **sufferings for the gospel** according to the power of God, 9 who has **saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose** and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, 10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 11 to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

12 For this reason I also suffer these things; **nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.** NKJV

- Paul was seeking God first
- He was not seeking the dream
- He was not seeking a position
- He was seeking God

Trials are inevitable – make sure your living God's dream for your life

It is better to chase after the one who gives the dream then chase the dream

If you want to know what God has dreamed for your life, get to know Him better – **Psalm 37:4**

Get to know Him as a **friend**

If all you think about is your dream or your calling and do everything YOU can to MAKE IT HAPPEN then it's more important than He is – you will have trouble fulfilling it!
Directing our attitude during the test is very important

Joseph

Genesis 37:18-20

18 Now when they saw him afar off, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him. 19 Then they said to one another, "Look, **this dreamer is coming!** 20 Come therefore, let us now kill him and **cast him into some pit**; and we shall say, 'Some wild beast has devoured him.' We shall see what will become of his dreams!" NKJV

Sometimes in a trial others are the problem

- There will always be someone who doesn't want to see your dream come to pass
- You can't do that
- Who do you think you are?
- He was father's favorite – Jealousy
- They probably recognized the coat

Sometimes I'm the problem

- They called him dreamer
- They were working in the fields
- Do I live with my head in the clouds?
- Do I believe that I am better than others?
- Do I think that the problem is everyone else?
- Can I be corrected or receive instruction? – Pr. 15:32

Joseph was out “Wandering” (vacillate) “Dreamer” when a man found him and directed him to his brothers

– Genesis 37:15

Things seemed to be going very well
Until he is thrown into a pit

The trials of life resist the Dream God has given us
The Devil wants you to think “See what will become of his dreams”

God will use the pits in life to bring about His plan and purpose

Genesis 37:21-24

21 But Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands, and said, "Let us not kill him." 22 And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him" — that he might deliver him out of their hands, and bring him back to his father. 23 So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the tunic of many colors that was on him. 24 Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it. NKJV

- The enemy wants to strip you of your dreams
- During a trial you feel alone
- Even those closest can't seem to help
- Your destiny is unsure
- Does God really have the best for me?

No matter what the reason we are in the pit it is always a good practice to ask God to reveal what we can learn from the trial we are in

Like it or not **most times** there are reasons that we are facing the test we are in

We are surrounded by a world with a victim mentality

We need to learn to be honest with ourselves and allow God to bring us out – Humility

– **1 Peter 5:6** Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God

It is very possible that pride had something to do with the pit that Joseph was in

God has given us wonderful gifts but if those gifts consume us or we forget that they are gifts we may find ourselves in a pit

The Enemy will tell us lies in the middle of the trail

Revelation 12:10 – (The Devil) The accuser of the brethren

- You will never get out of this pit
- God doesn't love you anymore
- You will never amount to anything
- Everyone else gets the breaks
- The accuser will say...
- Look at what God did to you
- Look at what He let happen to you
- He doesn't care about you

There is a difference between condemnation and conviction
Condemnation will cause you to lose all hope
Conviction tells you where you're wrong and shows the way out through love, repentance and forgiveness

Last Week

When the Devil tests us his purpose is to embarrass us, condemn us or get us to quit

He will cause others to present evidence to support the lie

He is trying to get you to believe

When the Lord test our faith it is to reveal the strength of our faith and to purify our minds and spirits by burning out the excessive dross that is in the precious metal

Either way our faith gives us the victory – 1 John 5:4

Jesus is praying for you to overcome – Hebrews 7:25

We must resist the lies of the enemy

James 4:7-8

7 Therefore **submit to God. Resist** the devil and he will flee from you. 8 **Draw near** to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. NKJV

- I should have gotten that job
- I'll never get promoted
- We'll never make enough money
- We'll never get that house
- I married the wrong spouse
- Our personalities are opposite
- We should not be together
- The psychiatrist's test said we're incompatible

The bible is a message of rescue and restoration
God is in the restoration business

The purpose of the Pit is to get us to cry out to God
To humble our heart before the lord
Page 108 – Perry Stone – “There’s a Crack in Your Armor”

Jonah 2:2

2 "I cried out to the LORD because of my affliction,
And He answered me. NKJV

Psalm 32:3-5

3 When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my
groaning all the day long. 4 For day and night Your hand
was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the
drought of summer. *Selah* 5 I acknowledged my sin to You,
and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess
my transgressions to the LORD," And You forgave the
iniquity of my sin. NKJV

- Holding on to bitterness and resentment will keep us
in the pit
- Confession and openness will bring restoration
- Sin is gone Righteousness is yours

2 Samuel 22:4-7

4 I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised;
So shall I be saved from my enemies. 5 "When the waves
of death surrounded me, the floods of ungodliness made me
afraid. 6 The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me;
The snares of death confronted me. 7 In my distress I called
upon the LORD, NKJV

2 Corinthians 4:8-14

8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed — 10 **always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus**, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

11 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So then death is working in us, but life in you. 13 And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, 14 knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. NKJV

- Not forsaken, not destroyed
- I died; He took my sin and gave me His righteousness
- Speak life into my situation
- You will speak what you believe and you will believe what you speak
- My life is hidden in Him

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the **inward man** is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. NKJV