

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

1Peter 2:11

Store In My Heart

Habakkuk 2:4

Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.

The last phrase in this verse is quoted three times by New Testament writers. Maybe a little context can help ensure we understand what it means.

Habakkuk questions why God would use a wicked nation to punish His people. He cannot understand what he is seeing in the vision God has given him to deliver as a warning to Judah. God tells him to write the vision for it will come to pass in the proper time. Then we have this statement at the beginning of a reminder of the danger of trusting in men. We do not see all of what is going on in life. We must put our trust in God, who knows all. Our faith that produces righteousness should be what guides our actions. Only that trust can bring us life with meaning and purpose.



Growing through Trials

Ulysses Buckley

I want to share with you a few thoughts from **1Peter 1:1-9**. Notice that Peter referred to his readers as pilgrims. A pilgrim is a temporary resident in a foreign land. This world is not our permanent home, as the Hebrew writer says in **Hebrews 13:14**, *“For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.”*

We have an inheritance reserved in heaven for us. Remember, we seek the city to come. There is a song we sing that says, “This world is not my home I’m just passing through; My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue.”

Notice that in **Vss. 5-9**, the word FAITH appears three times. We are kept for this inheritance by the power of God through FAITH. Paul taught in **Ephesians 2:8**, *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.”*

FAITH can be described as settled confidence. Trust. We are kept by our trust in God and His word. We know what the Lord has taught in His word. We know what He has done and what He has promised, and because we believe and have obeyed what He has taught us, we are settled in confidence.

The trials we endure test and prove the genuineness of our FAITH. Our faith is made stronger by trials. The body builder builds muscle by working against the resistance of heavy weights. In life, we are able to better appreciate the good because we have endured the bad.

I remember a song some time ago that said, ‘You don’t know how it is to get over if you’ve never been under; You don’t know what it is to wear a smile if you never wore a frown; You don’t know what it is to be free if you’ve never been bound.’

There are lessons in trials that teach us how to overcome. The testing and proving of our faith brings us to the point of being recipients of its end goal, which is the salvation of our souls. This is the living hope that is in Jesus Christ.

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

Joyce Vendable fell last week and is having a very slow recovery.

The Simpson Family is in isolation due to contact with a student who tested positive.

John Jackson is working.

Dan & JoBeth will be in Texas Monday & Tuesday for a quick visit with Andrew & Rachel.

Judges 6 this evening at 5 pm.

1Corinthians 10:23f Wednesday at 7 pm.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

This city to come, that the Hebrew writer referred to, is a prepared place for a prepared people. As Jesus said in **John 14:2**, *"I go to prepare a place for you."* The trials that we face in this life prepare us for that hope and inheritance. Notice what Paul wrote in **Romans 5:3-4**, *"And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character hope."*

God uses trials to test, prove, and prepare His people for good things to come. Notice in this reading, **Vss. 6,7**, referring to our anticipation of the inheritance, *"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ."* Notice also what Moses said to the people of Israel in **Deuteronomy 8:2,16**, *"And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandment or not."* *"Who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end."*

Let us learn to look for the lessons that may be learned from our trials and difficulties. Strive to follow the admonition of **James 1:2-4**, *"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."*

Remember also that God loves us and want the best for us. If we are His children and we find ourselves going through difficult times, let's look for the hand of God working with us.

(Brother Buckley is one of the shepherds of the Dowlen Road Church of Christ in Beaumont, TX. This article was posted on Facebook in the last week or so. I think it contains thoughts that can help us all, especially as it seems we are to face even more trials in our future.

If we let our struggles and trials on earth bring us down we will never find peace. We need to find the lessons that are going bring strength to our hearts and minds. Every trial we endure can be an opportunity for growth in our service and devotion to the Lord and our fellow man. Maybe it would help if I look at trials in my past and find how I learned from them, or what opportunity I may have missed in that situation that could have strengthen my faith and understanding of what God wants from all of us. We must look at every experience in this life as an opportunity to help us remove things that hinder us and learn things that will help us grow closer to God. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!