

GROWING

THROUGH

TRIALS

1 PETER 4:12-14

1 Peter 4:12-14

12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

Introduction

A. God' instruments of growth

1. The Christian life begins with spiritual birth

John 3:3-5

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Introduction

A. God's instruments of growth

2. God's plan is birth, growth, and maturity

Ephesians 4:13

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

3. God uses the Bible, the church, and other believers to mature us

4. God also uses trials to bring us to maturity

I. Why Christians Have Trials (v 12)

A. “Think it not strange”

B. Christians have trials because we live in a sinful world

1. We are part of a fallen race

Romans 3:11-12

11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

I. Why Christians Have Trials (v 12)

B. Christians have trials because we live in a sinful world - continued

2. We live in a world of turmoil and natural disasters

Luke 21:11

And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.

I. Why Christians Have Trials (v 12)

B. Christians have trials because we live in a sinful world - continued

3. We live in a world of crime, sickness, and death

2 Timothy 3:13

But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

Hebrews 9:27

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

I. Why Christians Have Trials (v 12)

**C. Christians have trials because of the power of Satan
Ephesians 6:12**

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

I. Why Christians Have Trials (v 12)

D. Christians are on a collision course with the world

1. Jesus warned of this conflict

John 15:18-20

18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

I. Why Christians Have Trials (v 12)

**D. Christians are on a collision course with the world
– continued**

2. Many have suffered and died for Christ

Hebrews 11:36-40

**36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and
scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:**

**37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were
tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered
about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute,
afflicted, tormented;**

I. Why Christians Have Trials (v 12)

**D. Christians are on a collision course with the world
– continued**

2. Many have suffered and died for Christ

Hebrews 11:36-40

38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

II. Why The Christian's Trials Are Different (v 13)

A. We do not suffer alone

Hebrews 13:5-6

5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

B. We become partakers of Christ's sufferings (v 13)

II. Why The Christian's Trials Are Different (v 13)

C. We can even find joy in jeopardy

D. There is a design in our difficulties

Romans 8:28-29

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

II. Why The Christian's Trials Are Different (v 13)

E. After our trials will come glory

Romans 8:17-18

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

III. How Mature Christians React To Their Trials

(v 14)

A. “Happy are ye”

B. Christians may have financial trials

Philippians 4:10

But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

C. Christians may have trials concerning health

D. Christians may have trials concerning their families

E. Christians may have emotional problems

The Red Sea Place – Annie Johnson Flint

**Have you come to the Red Sea place in your life,
Where, in spite of all you can do,
There is no way out, there is no way back,
There is no other way but through?**

**Then wait on the Lord with a trust serene
Till the night of your fear is gone;
He will send the wind, He will heave the floods,
When He says to your soul, “Go on”.**

**And His hand will lead you through – clear through –
Ere the watery walls roll down,
No foe can reach you, no wave can touch,
No mightiest sea can drown.**

The Red Sea Place – Annie Johnson Flint

**The tossing billows may rear their crests,
Their foam at your feet may break,
But over their bed you shall walk dry shod
In the path that your Lord will make.**

**In the morning watch, 'neath the lifted cloud,
You shall see but the Lord alone,
When He leads you on from the place of the sea
To a land that you have not known.**

**And your fears shall pass as your foes have passed,
You shall be no more afraid;
You shall sing His praise in a better place,
A place that His hand has made.**

TRIALS?

MAKING US BETTER?