

## PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORY: JOYFUL IN TRIALS

Houses of Light Church • February 26-27, 2022 • Pastor Netz Gómez

### 1 Pet. 1:6-9

*"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials. <sup>7</sup> These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls."*

#### I. WE CAN HAVE JOY IN THE MIDST OF AFFLICTIONS

- A. **v.6 "In all this you greatly rejoice"** The reason for rejoicing is His great mercy; God caused us to be born again to a living hope based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. **This living hope is a real heritage that will never disappoint us because it cannot be destroyed because it is protected by God in heaven and we will not fail to get there because we too are kept by the power of God.** Our heavenly Father will preserve both us and our inheritance until we receive it.
  - B. We have all these reasons to be joyful. In these verses there is no command to rejoice, until **v.13**. This is very significant because **the Word of God can create what it describes. The affirmations of the Word have power (Jn. 6:63).**
  - C. **"though now for a little while"** The truth that the Spirit presents through Peter is that we will "rejoice greatly" in that future day, while now we experience distressing trials. Compared to the everlasting bliss to come, our present troubles are only **"for a little while,"** that is, temporary and brief (**Matt. 5:4-5**).
- 2 Cor. 4:17-18 "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. <sup>18</sup> So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."**
- D. **"if need be, you have been grieved by various trials"** Who considers it necessary? God may consider it necessary; It is not that difficulties happen to Christians by chance or simply by chance, but rather it is something that God sees as necessary for us to be afflicted in various trials. **He is not speaking in a naive way or saying: everything in the Christian life is joy and delight, on the contrary there are afflictions in the Christian life; but in the midst of that we rejoice.**

**1 Pet. 4:19 "Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator."**

- E. **Yes, we can do two things: be saddened by what is happening but at the same time rejoiced by the glory to come.** There is a paradox here that in the Christian there is great joy even while we are afflicted in various trials.

**2 Cor. 6:10 *"sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything."***

- F. **"various trials"** The kinds of trials we face are varied and challenge our faithfulness to God's will, but the reason joy can be sustained during afflictions is because the genuineness of our faith will be tested. The word **"trials"** in this verse does not mean the internal struggle with the evil inclination, but the sufferings that happen to us from the outside and that anguish us.

**v.7 *"These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."***

- G. **This genuine faith is more precious than gold, and trials do to faith what "fire" does to "gold."** They purify it and reveal its true value and authenticity. God purifies our faith with trials, helping us realize the inadequacy of anything but trusting Him in these situations so that when He returns it will be found in praise, glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

- H. **The praise, glory and honor of whom?** The answer is yours and mine because our faith, which is authentic, will be honored by God.

**1 Cor. 4:5 *"Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God."***

**1 Pet. 5:4 *"And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away."***

- I. **When faith remains firm it will bring much praise, glory and honor on the day that Jesus is revealed to the whole world; Indeed, this word never fade away is the same word that Peter used when speaking of our inheritance (1 Pet. 1:4). The glorification of the saints is a very notorious doctrine in the New Testament, it should not surprise us that because of genuine faith we receive praise from God.**

**Rom. 2:29b *"...Such a person's praise is not from other people, but from God."***

- J. **This does not mean any position superior to Christ, much less, but rather **that honor comes because of our genuine faith IN Jesus Christ, although we do not see Him....****

## **II. THE MIRACLE OF LOVING HIM EVEN THOUGH WE HAVEN'T SEEN HIM**

- A. **v.8 *"Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy."*** Peter knows that he has a kind of advantage over these

believers because he did see the Lord, he saw Him suffer and he saw Him rise again. The obstacle to joy could be not having been there with Peter seeing Jesus and it can make us feel tempted to doubt but despite not seeing Him now we can love Him and trust Him to the point of rejoicing with a glorious and indescribable joy precisely because that it was He who produced this love, trust and joy.

**1 Jn. 4:19 "We love Him because He first loved us."**

- B. Because the joy and love we have is not based on having been there to see it before or now. I repeat, the reason we really love him is a miracle of the new birth. Peter tells them this love they have for Him is something that only the new birth produces as a result of the resurrection of Jesus. Loving Jesus and believing in Him is proof of the miracle of the new birth. We do not love him because we are very spiritual or very good but because of the work of the risen Jesus.

**1 Jn. 5:1 "Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well."**

- C. *"inexpressible and glorious joy"* This glorious joy is because of the hope that anticipates the glory of God. Seeing this glory has an effect on the kind of joy we will have.

**2 Cor. 3:18 "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."**

- D. When you focus on the glory that comes when Jesus is revealed it gives you a kind of joy that makes it glorious, it's something supernatural.

**Rom 5:2 "through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God."**

**v.9 "for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls."**

- E. In other words, by loving Him, believing in Him and rejoicing in this supernatural joy, we are now obtaining the end of our faith, that is, the salvation of our lives. We have been saved but right now we are being saved. But at Jesus' return we will gain **"complete salvation of [our] souls"** (ie, glorification, though not necessarily exemption from physical suffering and death now). The Greek word translated "souls" (psychon) refers to our persons, that is, to all the beings that God has saved (**Mk 3:4; 8:34-37; Rom 13:1; 1 Thess 2:8; Jas 1:21; 5:20**). A better translation would be **"of our life."** This is part of the reason we also experience joy in present trials. Since our salvation comes by faith, it is consistent that we must continue to trust God now. We are already experiencing our salvation but we still have to see much more which will happen when Jesus appears in heaven.

**1 Ped. 1:13 "So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world."**

- F. The Greek word *parousia* means "**presence**" and specifically "**the presence of His coming**," the coming of Christ. The "**revelation**" ("**discovery**," "**appearance**", Gr. *apokalypsis*) of Jesus Christ will take place at the Rapture, and at the Second Coming. Both events, seen as a whole, are included in this word.

**Matt. 24:30-31 "Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other."**

### III. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. According to this text, why is it that you can be joyful in the midst of afflictions?
2. What do you think about God deeming it necessary for us to go through various trials?
3. Why can we love, trust and rejoice in Christ even though we have not seen Him?

#### **THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **INNER HEALING RETREATS: Women March 18-19 y 25-26 • Men April 29-30.** They will take place at the Houses of Light facilities. Register today at the bookstore or online [www.housesoflight.org](http://www.housesoflight.org)
- **CORPORATE PRAYER: Thursday March 3rd 7:00 p.m.**
- **NEXT MISSION TRIP: August 1-5 Vacation Bible School for the orphans of the El Porvenir Children's Ranch in Valle de Guadalupe. Northern Baja California. For more information go to the information table.**