

## The Joy of Persevering Faith

*In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.*

I Peter 1:6-7

There are times when having faith can bring us health, financial blessings (so that we can bless others) and breakthroughs to prohibitive barriers. Jesus taught us that faith is powerful. Faith, even as small as a mustard seed, can move mountains (Matthew 17:20-21). There are other times when faith is to be exercised to help us endure trials and grief.

Some have said that trials prove your lack of faith. Not according to the teachings of Peter above and the teachings of James who said, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of you faith develops perseverance." James 1:2

Faith is the commodity of the Kingdom or as I like to say, the currency of the Kingdom. Peter tells us right out that faith is of greater worth than gold! Why buy gold which will perish? Instead, acquire faith. Faith is acquired through trials. Our Father does not develop and refine our faith by handing us everything on a silver platter; quite the opposite. Peter says that grievous trials have come to your life so that your faith may be proven genuine.

Think about it. How much faith does it take to believe in your Father in heaven who is actively involved in your life, if you have never had to suffer, or been persecuted or been in need? The time we need faith the most is when things are not going well. I have heard it said, "Well, you must not have faith, you're sick!" or "You must not have faith; you have too many financial needs" or "You must not have faith or that situation in your life would be cleared up." Let me put it this way...NOT!

We need trials. You will be a weak, immature and diluted Christian without the testing of your faith. Maturity requires trials. When you read what I just said, do you rejoice or do you groan? If you groan like I do sometimes, we are showing our immaturity in the Kingdom of God and our maturity in the kingdom of Americanism. We need trials. And we need to learn to count it all joy. The more I have studied faith, the more I come to appreciate trials of all kinds.

Someone will say, "I'm staying away from this faith thing because I don't like trials." That won't work. You are going to have to renounce your Christianity like many cushy Americans are doing in order to get out of God's testing plan for your life. Listen closely, trials will come to your life when you have little faith, and trials will come to your life when you have great faith. Trials do not necessarily reveal lack of faith, trials develop perseverance and perseverance must finish its work so that you can be mature and complete and lack nothing (James 1:4).

Don't cry over the spilt milk of this world. Cry over your lack of joy when the Lord's awesome plan of testing and refining come knocking at your door. Cry at your insatiable desire for more stuff rather than more faith in Lord. Praise the Lord for the fiery trial, in this you greatly rejoice, though for a little while you may have had to suffer grief.