

IF YOU CAN'T STAND THE HEAT....

STAY OUT OF THE KITCHEN

For years I have heard this saying...but this week, the Lord gave me a whole new insight to this phrase.

1 Peter 1:3-9 NIV - Praise to God for a Living Hope

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

1 Peter 1:7 (NIV)

⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith (The trial of your faith)—of greater worth than gold (More precious than gold), which perishes even though refined by fire (Though it be tried by fire)—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed (At the appearing of Jesus Christ).

Illustration: THE CARROT, EGG, AND COFFEE BEAN

Each of them had faced the same adversity, boiling water, but each reacted differently.

Definition of ADVERSITY – Difficulties and misfortunes!!!!

- a difficult situation or condition : misfortune or tragedy

WHY IS IT THAT SOME PEOPLE BACKSLIDE OVER THE SAME THING THAT OTHERS DRAW CLOSER TO THE LORD WHEN THEY GO THROUGH THE EXACT SAME TEST?

SOME TESTS: The loss of a loved one; or The loss of a job

- **A divorce; A bankruptcy; or A sickness**

THE CARROT

The carrot went in strong, hard, and firm. But after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak...

Psalm 66:10 - For you, God, tested us; you refined us like silver.

Matthew 26:41 - "Watch and pray so that you **will not fall into temptation**. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Luke 8:13 - Those on the rocky ground are the ones who *receive the word with joy when they hear it*, **but they have no root**. They believe for a while, but in **the time of testing** they fall away.

Luke 8:18 - Therefore consider carefully how you listen. **Whoever has will be given more**; whoever does not have, even what they think they have will be taken from them."

- Be careful not to become so spiritual so quick that we think we are exempt from falling... (***Backsliding is a leak – not a blowout***)
- The devil gets glory out of you falling...
- Others watching get glory out of saying that Christianity is impossible...
- Don't get weak in doing good!!!!!!

Applying Gods Word helps us grow!!!!

- If you are not growing stronger
- **You are** growing weaker
- It is impossible for you to stand still....

How are you using what God has taught you???

Are you a carrot that seems hard????

- But with pain and adversity -
- Do you wilt and become soft -
- **AND lose your strength??????**

THE EGG

The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior. But after sitting through the boiling water, its insides became hardened.

Psalm 66:10 - For you, God, tested us; **you refined us like silver.**

Psalm 66:11 - You **brought us** into prison and laid burdens on our backs.

Psalm 66:12 - You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but **you brought us to a place of abundance.**

***Just as fire refines silver in the smelting process, trials refines our character!**

In the book of Exodus – Pharaoh hardened his heart 9 times...

- Each time things got a little worse...
- If the devil can **make you bitter** - cause you to **become hard**...he has you!
- **We must NOT** turn from God **by the substance that is to make us stronge!**
- **We must** truly trust in the LORD!!!!

Are you the egg, which started off with a malleable heart????

Were you a fluid spirit???

- But, after **pain and adversity** did you become hard and stiff???
- Your shell looks the same on the outside,
- Are you bitter and tough with a stiff spirit & hardened heart on the inside???

THE GROUND COFFEE BEANS

The ground coffee beans were unique. However, after they were in the boiling water, they changed the water around them...

Psalm 66:12 - You let people ride over our heads; **we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance.**

James 1:12 - Blessed is the one **who perseveres** under trial because, having stood the test, that person **will receive** *the crown of life that the Lord has promised* to those who love him.

¹³ **When tempted**, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away **by their own evil desire** and enticed.

Temptation comes from evil desires inside us, NOT from God!

- God wants us to **change** *what is around us...*
- **NOT** be *changed by the circumstances...*
- I warn Satan every day when I get up...
- ***I plan on making a difference...***
- I refuse to leave this world without impacting the place which I have been...
- I want to change this community...
- ***This church is the coffee Bean!!!!!!!!!!***

The bean changes the hot water...

- ***The source that brings it pain***, to its peak flavor when it reaches 100 degrees...
- ***When the water gets the hottest***, the ***coffee just taste better...***

If you are like the bean...

- When things are at their worst...
- ***You get better and make things better around you!!!!***

Closing:

1 Peter 1:8-9 - 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, ⁹ ***for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.***

MY CHURCH Story: In the face of ADVERSITY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Which are you?????

Definition of ADVERSITY – Difficulties and misfortunes!!!!

"resilience in the face of adversity"

When ADVERSITY knocks on your door, how do you respond???

ARE YOU A CARROT, AN EGG, OR A COFFEE BEAN????