

**IF YOU CAN'T STAND THE HEAT....STAY OUT OF THE KITCHEN**

**Re-preach 8/18/19 – 2/19/23**

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

**1 Peter – God's great blessings to His People**

- The apostle Peter wrote this letter to encourage believers who would likely face trials and persecution under Emperor Nero...
- Peter wanted to warn them about what lay ahead, and they needed his encouraging words to help them face opposition...
- Peter encouraged his readers by this strong declaration that they were chosen by God the Father...

**1 Peter 1:3-5 NIV - Praise to God for a Living Hope**

<sup>3</sup> 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, <sup>4</sup> and **into an inheritance that can never perish**, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> 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.

**Vs 3. New birth – This term is a wonderful metaphor of a new life from God.**

**A person cannot be a Christian without fresh beginning based on the salvation Christ brings.**

**When we receive God's magnificent gift, he brings us new freedom, a new identity, and a new family.**

**Vs 4. The Inheritance – You have this inheritance if you have trusted Jesus as your Savior...**

**Before we go to Heaven there will be some storms that we will have to endure.**

## ***Do you need encouragement???***

- Peter's words offer **joy and hope** *in times of trouble*
- He bases **his confidence** on **what God has done for us** in Christ Jesus...

**1 Peter 1:6** In all this you greatly rejoice, **though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.**

**All believers face such trials when they let their light shine into the darkness.**

**2 Corinthians 4:8-9** <sup>8</sup> ***We are hard-pressed on every side***, yet not crushed; we *are* perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, **but not destroyed—**

**2 Corinthians 4:16 - Seeing the Invisible** - <sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart. ***Even though our outward man is perishing***, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day.

***Why were Christians the target of persecution???*** - They refused to worship the Emperor, refused to worship at pagan temples, they didn't support the Roman ideals of self, power, and conquest,

they exposed and rejected the **horrible immorality of pagan culture!!!**

**1 Peter 1:7** (NIV) - <sup>7</sup> 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**).

**We must accept trials as part of the refining process that *burns away impurities and prepares us to meet Christ.***

- ***As gold is heated***, impurities float to the top and can be skimmed off.
- Likewise, our trials, struggles, and persecution ***refine and strengthen our faith. Making us useful to God!!!***

He who **suffered for us** will not abandon us. Jesus **carries us** through everything.

**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 - The loss of a job – The loss of sobriety*
- *A divorce; A bankruptcy; A sickness;*
- *Or anything else that may come at you as Adversity –*
- *A difficult situation or condition – misfortune or tragedy.....*

**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**.

**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!**

- They bring us **a new and deeper wisdom**
- Helping us **discern truth from falsehood**
- Giving us the **discipline to do what we know is right**
- **These trials help us realize that life is a gift from God to be cherished**
- **NOT a right to be taken for granted...**

**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 stronger!***
- ***We must** truly **trust in the LORD!!!!***

Proverbs 3:5-6 - 5 **Trust in the Lord** with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

*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???
- Did you forget to Trust in the Lord????**

<b>THE GROUND COFFEE BEANS</b>
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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 1:12-14 - 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.

<sup>13</sup> ***When tempted***, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

<sup>14</sup> 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:**

***The opening of this message let's remember 1 Peter 1:6 - In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.***

***We must accept trials as part of the refining process that burns away impurities and prepares us to meet Christ.***

- ***As gold is heated***, impurities float to the top and can be skimmed off.
- Likewise, our trials, struggles, and persecution ***refine and strengthen our faith***.
- ***Making us useful to God!!!***

***Instead of asking - WHY ME????***

***We should respond to suffering (and Adversity) with a new set of responses:***

1. **CONFIDENCE** that God knows, plans, and directs our lives for the good.
2. **PERSEVERANCE** when facing grief, anger, sorrow, and pain...
3. **COURAGE** because with Jesus as Savior, we need not be afraid...

He who suffered for us **WILL NOT** abandon us... JESUS carries us through everything!

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Jesus said to his disciple Thomas, who came to believe after he touched the resurrected Christ:

“Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen yet have believed” John 20:29

Peter repeats those words here:

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, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Faith will be rewarded and Evil will be punished...

Praise Team:

If today that means resolving a conflict, mending a hurt, working a dull job, confronting a belligerent child, rebuilding a marriage, or just waiting for guidance – DO it ALL with the JOY of God, who will return with His reward!

Definition of ADVERSITY – Difficulties and misfortunes!!!! - "resilience in the face of adversity"

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

Which are you?????

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