

Genuine Faith

5-29-22

1Peter 1:7 (NIV)

These (trials) 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.

We all go through trials of various kinds. We often we cry out to God, “Why is this happening to me.” Also, we ask God, “When will this end?” 1 Peter will give us some insights. As stated, trials are associated to the proven genuineness of our faith. Therefore, we need to understand the foundations of our faith.

1Peter 1:3-5 (NIV)

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, ⁴and 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.

Our solid rock, the Lord Jesus Christ has given us new birth through HIS resurrection. “We are born again in the Spirit.” We have an inheritance that will never perish kept in heaven for us. Even now we are shielded by God’s power. **We are shielded because of our faith. This clearly shows the activity of God in our lives. These facts energize our individual, personal faith.**

1Peter 1:6 (NIV)

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 greatly rejoice for all that God has done for us. Being mature we understand that we will go through suffering that is brief, and necessary. Many may say, “My trial is not brief.” However, God says our life on earth is like a vapor. Therefore, any suffering compared to eternity is **brief**. God’s eternal promises help us persevere. But also, God clearly shows us that suffering is **necessary**.

1Peter 1:7 (NIV)

These **(trials)** 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.

Necessary: As gold is subjected to fire in the purifying process, so too the Christian’s faith must be refined. **Faith is not seen as genuine unless it is tested.** After testing our Genuine Faith results in praise, glory, and honor to Jesus and to us. **Therefore, suffering becomes part of God’s plan.**

Isaiah 48:10 (ESV)

Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver;
I have tried you in the furnace of affliction.

The trials burn away any impurities in the believer’s faith.

Just as pure gold or silver remains after the purifying process of the refiner's fire, when we learn from our trials, what remains is purified, genuine faith.

How long do we have to be refined? Looking into the pot that is refining silver.

The triumphant refined faith will come back upon us as praise, glory, and honor. Jesus will be glorified by our loyalty. However, we also will be recognized and honored for our loyalty. Jesus will proclaim to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" (Matt.25:21) Our faith was genuine.

1Peter 1:8-9 (NIV)

⁸Though 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, ⁹for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Jesus' presence in our lives is real, even if we can't see HIM. Christ told Thomas, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believe." This means we all can experience this inexpressible joy, beyond human description. This type of joy does not belong to this world-order, and it is not of human origin. **This inexpressible joy is a divine gift and a direct consequence of a living relationship with Jesus.** This is a witness to others of divine care and loving activity in our life. Such day-by-day faith and joy produce Christian maturity. Inexpressible joy is the result of growth in the Christian life.

Back to the basics! We will be filled with inexpressible joy when we embrace our new birth and the fact, we have an inheritance that can never perish kept in heaven for us. At the same time, we know without question that we are shielded by God's power. Therefore, we stand strong unwavering with inexpressible joy while we are refined in the furnace of affliction.

God's purpose is that we take possession of what we already own.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.