

WHY ARE CHRISTIANS TESTED AND TRIED???

TEXT: 1 Peter 4:12-13:

¹² Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

¹³ But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His Glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.



Cross Reference:

A. 1 Peter 1:7: *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

B. 1 Peter 2:12: *Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

C. 1 Peter 2:19-21:

¹⁹ For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.

²⁰ For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

²¹ For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps:

D. 1 Peter 3:14-15:

¹⁴ But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

E. 1 Peter 4:14: If ye be reproached for the Name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of Glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part He is evil spoken of, but on your part He is glorified.

F. 1 Peter 4:16: Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

G. 1 Peter 5:8: Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:



H. 1 Peter 5:10: But the God of all grace, Who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

I. 2 Timothy 2:12: If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him: if we deny Him, He also will deny us:



The Holy Spirit very appropriately directs the Apostle Peter to write these two Epistles to the TESTED and TRIED saints. He also was to undergo many TESTS and TRIALS himself for the purging and purifying of his soul. The DROSS must be purged out, and Peter had plenty to flush out of his life. Listen now to these Scriptures on the REFINING OF THE SAINTS.

A. Isaiah 1:25: And I will turn My hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin:

B. Job 23:10: But He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

C. Ezekiel 22:18-20:

18 Son of man, the House of Israel is to Me become dross: all they are brass, and tin, and iron, and lead, in the midst of the furnace; they are even the dross of silver.

19 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye are all become dross, behold, therefore I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem.

20 As they gather silver, and brass, and iron, and lead, and tin, into the midst of the furnace, to blow the fire upon it, to melt it; so will I gather you in Mine anger and in My fury, and I will leave you there, and melt you.



D. Malachi 3:3: And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

OUTLINE:

1. The DIVINE Metals — silver and gold — are descriptive of Christians

1 Peter 1:7: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

2 Timothy 2:20-21:

20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

2. The Divine Method: FIERY TRIALS:

1 Peter 4:12: Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

1 Peter:1:7: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

3. The Divine Motive: PURIFY AND PURGE

Isaiah 1:25: And I will turn My hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin:

Malachi 3:3: And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

1 Peter 5:10: But the God of all grace, Who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

4. The Divine Manifestation: MADE PARTAKERS OF GOD'S HOLINESS

Hebrews 12:10: For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but He for our profit, that we might be partakers of His Holiness.

EXAMPLE: Moses

Hebrews 11:26: Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

Had Moses chosen the riches of Egypt and been heir to the throne, his name might be inscribed on some marble monument in Egypt, in obscurity. However, today his name is inscribed in the minds and memories of millions of Christians and Jewish hearts as one of the greatest of all the prophets. In countless sermons, he is lauded and in books by the thousands and even into the millions. He is one of the best known men in history. What is more, the Lord Jesus magnified Moses' name frequently, while here on the earth. How many Christians today, are



making a sad mistake in spending their time and strength making money, rather than the TRUE RICHES sought for which are in Christ Jesus, as did MOSES.

NOTE these words in:

1 Peter 4:14: If ye be reproached for the Name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of Glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part He is evil spoken of, but on your part He is glorified.

It does not say: Reproached for the name of our CHURCH, our Creed, or our Denomination.

Acts 5:41: And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His Name.



ILLUSTRATION:

The apostle Peter was a special TARGET of satan's assaults. The Lord Jesus tells Peter:

Luke 22:31-32:

³¹ And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

³² But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

THE APOSTLE PETER did need this sifting and purging and refining, but look what it made him to become!!! He is chief spokesman on the Day of Pentecost. He has a gifted ministry second to none. What other apostle was this said about, that his very shadow cast on people healed them.

Acts 5:15-16:

¹⁵ Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

16 There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

Acts 9:40-42:

40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.



41 And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.

42 And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.

QUESTION: Why did the apostle Peter need this sifting as wheat?

ANSWER:

1. One moment he is walking on the water to go to Jesus, triumphantly; but the next moment he is sinking down into the Sea of Galilee to death, because of fear and doubt.

Matthew 14:28-33:

28 And Peter answered Him and said, Lord, if it be Thou, bid me come unto Thee on the water.

29 And He said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.



30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.



31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth His Hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped Him, saying, Of a truth Thou art the Son of God.

2. One minute he is declaring one of the most miraculous revelations of Who The Lord Jesus Christ is; and the next he is rebuking Christ for Christ's latest prophecy of His soon coming DEATH on CALVARY'S CROSS.

Matthew 16:16-17:

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but My Father Who is in Heaven.

Matthew 16:22-23:

22 Then Peter took Him, and began to rebuke Him, saying, Be it far from Thee, Lord: this shall not be unto Thee.

23 But He turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind Me, satan: thou art an offence unto Me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

3. The Lord Jesus Christ chose Peter to be one of His INNER CIRCLE of three apostles — Peter, James, and John — whom He took up to the Mount of Transfiguration. There He allowed them to have a divine revelation of His Glory which He had with the Father before the world was. Peter was so excited that he ran off the mouth saying: *Let's build three tabernacles, one for You Jesus, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah*

Matthew 17:1-4:

1 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart,

2 And was transfigured before them: and His Face did shine as the sun, and His raiment was white as the light.



3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias [Elijah] talking with Him.

4 Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if Thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for Thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

4. One minute Peter refuses to allow the Lord Jesus to wash his feet, and the next he is wanting the Lord Jesus to give him a complete bath.

John 13:5-17:

5 After that He poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith He was girded.

6 Then cometh He to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto Him, Lord, dost Thou wash my feet?

7 Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

8 Peter saith unto Him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with Me.

9 Simon Peter saith unto Him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

10 Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.

11 For He knew who should betray Him; therefore said He, Ye are not all clean.

12 So after He had washed their feet, and had taken His garments, and was set down again, He said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?

13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.



15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

5. One day Peter declares to Jesus that he is willing to lay down his life for HIM, and a few days later he denies Christ three times.



Matthew 26:35, 70-75:

35 Peter said unto Him, Though I should die with Thee, yet will I not deny Thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.

70 But he [Peter] denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest.

71 And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth.

72 And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man.

73 And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech betrayeth thee.

74 Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the Man. And immediately the cock crew.

75 And Peter remembered the Word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny Me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.



6. One day when the Lord was counting on Peter and the other apostles to watch and pray with Him, they all went to sleep instead. A few moments later,

Peter took a sword and sheared off the right ear of Malchus (a servant of the High Priest).

John 18:10: Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.



7. One day Peter was meditating on the subject of FORGIVENESS as The Lord Jesus was giving a sermon on the subject. He felt he was getting mighty big in God to be able to forgive a wrongdoer 7 times. The Lord Jesus surprised and stunned His apostle by saying: Don't stop at 7 but forgive him 70 times 7. That answer really took the wind out of his sails.

Matthew 18:21-22:

21 Then came Peter to Him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

8. One day Peter is cursing and swearing and denying Christ, and the next scene he is weeping bitterly and very repentant after a look from the Lord Jesus.

Matthew 26:74-75:

74 Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the Man. And immediately the cock crew.

75 And Peter remembered the Word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny Me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.



9. Peter carried that guilt and grief for three long days until he heard a special message from his fellow apostles that THE LORD JESUS SAID: "Go tell My disciples and PETER that I go before you in the Galilee and there ye shall see Me".

Mark 16:7: But go your way, tell His disciples and Peter that He goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see Him, as He said unto you.

10. Peter is still carnal-minded and decides to go back to his old fishing trade, even after The Lord Jesus' resurrection from the dead; and his influence takes a group of apostles along with him. They didn't do very well that night, having caught NOTHING. The Lord Jesus appeared on shore, made breakfast for all of them, and called to them to do two things:

(a) Cast their net on the right side of the boat and they will SUCCEED. They did and enclosed 153 whoppers!



(b) Then Jesus told them to come and dine.

John 21:3-12:

³ Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

⁴ But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.

⁵ Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered Him, No.

⁶ And He said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

⁷ Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved [John] saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.



⁸ And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes.

9 As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.

10 Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught.

11 Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.



12 Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask Him, Who art Thou? knowing that it was the Lord.

11. Peter was a wimp at the trial of The Lord Jesus, but on the day of Pentecost, he got filled with the Holy Ghost and became a WHOPPER for the LORD as he preached a sermon which brought 3,000 souls into the Family of God.

Acts 2:41: Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

One day he was warming himself by the earth's fire at Jesus' trial, NOW he is ON FIRE for God on the Day of Pentecost.



The HOLY GHOST FIRE purged all the DROSS out of Peter, and he became one of the most outstanding of the apostles.

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