

# Rejoicing With Heaviness

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Straight Paths Bible Church

1 Peter 1:5-9 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 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: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

- I. The Christian rejoices in what is to come, not in the here and now.
  - A. Wherein ye greatly rejoice ...
  - B. We rejoice in the fact that we are saved from a depraved and wicked world to a wonderful eternity.
  - C. We rejoice in the fact that it is a sure thing and not something that is unsure, as everything in this world is.
  
- II. The Christian will often have heaviness in his present circumstances.
  - A. Heaviness means distress, grief, sorrow.
    1. Burdened; carrying a load.
    2. Having a hard way to go.
  - B. This is the picture of the true Christian life that the Bible paints for us here.
  - C. It is quite a different image than what is portrayed by the modern version of the Gospel.
    1. It is most often presented as a pep-rally, or a hoot-n-nanny.
    2. The Christian life is presented a life of shouting and praise and overwhelming emotions.
  - D. But if the Bible is true, then the true Christian will experience much heaviness.
  - E. This is not his permanent condition, but "for a season."
  
- 2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;
  - F. His heaviness is not punishment, or something God puts on him to make him miserable - it is not an injustice.
  - G. It is part of his training, to make him a good soldier of Jesus Christ.
  - H. It is what proves his faith is the real thing.
  
- III. Faith must be tried.
  - A. The end of our faith is the salvation of our souls. (v. 9)
  - B. We are kept by the power of God through faith. (v. 5)
  - C. "Through faith" is mentioned 15 times in the New Testament.
  - D. So faith is of the utmost importance - much more precious than gold.
  - E. Therefore, it must be the right kind of faith, and to know that it must be tested.
  - F. Faith that will not endure testing by fire will not get you to God and will not get you to heaven, either.
  
- IV. The heaviness transforms faith from an embryo to a full-grown man.

- A. Faith that has endured the trials to which God has subjected it looks very different than newborn faith that is immature and clinging.
- B. Faith that has been tried is made strong and stable.
  - 1. Sure and stable; not confused and doubting.
- C. Those who are just beginning the journey and others who are immature in faith may wonder at the settled steadfastness of another's faith - the reason is simply that it has been tried.
- D. Once faith has been through the fire and survived it is purified - the junk is gone and what remains is pure and therefore strong.
  - 1. Gold does not increase in the fire, but decreases in quantity.
  - 2. Even gold that is purified will perish in the end, but faith that is tried will never perish.
- E. Faith that has made it through the fiery trials produces a liberty in the soul that cannot be understood by those who have not been tried or who have no faith.
  - 1. Like a caterpillar transformed into a butterfly.
- F. Faith that is tried will be found in the end unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.
  - 1. Right now it is ridiculed, hated, and spoken evil of.
  - 2. Right now it is under heaviness, but it will not always be that way.
  - 3. Those who are in heaviness now will shine when it is over.
  - 4. Faithlessness, or unfaithfulness will not be praised, or honored, but true faith will.