

THE SPIRIT OF FAITH

More Glory

Foundation Statement: *2 Corinthians 4:17-The spirit of faith will call the trouble/pressure light and then make the trouble/the pressure work for it*

I. This affliction is resulting in, accomplishing, and achieving more glory for him

- A. Glory is reaching your most exalted state and your most glorious condition
 - 1. Glory is you becoming more excellent, more magnificent, more developed, reaching a more exalted state and more glorious condition; Glory is you shining brighter, it's you increasing in dignity (elevation, honorable place or rank)
 - 2. In that verse he's saying this pressure, this distress, this trouble is resulting in more glory in our lives
- B. 1 Peter 1:11-Glory follows suffering; Suffering and then glory
 - 1. He is suffering and he says this suffering, this affliction leading to more glory
- C. 1 Peter 4:1-2 (AMP)-The suffering is, not giving into the flesh and doing what it wants, but rather pleasing God; When you don't do what your flesh wants to do you are suffering
 - 1. Hebrews 2:18-Jesus suffered, being tempted and not giving into what his flesh wanted
 - 2. **Suffering is not just going through something hard; if that was suffering everybody's life would be full of God's glory, but it's not**
 - a. **Suffering is going through something hard and staying in faith (because that's what your flesh doesn't want to do and that's what pleases God)**
 - 1) If you go through something hard and freak out and flesh out and yield to fear and unbelief you're not suffering, you're giving the flesh exactly what it wants; You're experiencing trouble, affliction and certainly it's not comfortable but you're not suffering
 - 2) Most people don't suffer all that much because they fulfill the appetites of the flesh rather than denying them
 - 3. **To stay in faith with the pressure is on is to suffer, but that suffering will lead to glory**
 - a. When pressure shows up in your life, the temptation is to give into the flesh and draw back in unbelief and that doesn't please God, but it does please your flesh (Your flesh loves giving up, giving in)
 - b. When you suffer in faith you then cause the pressure that showed up to destroy you to work for you and bring about more glory
 - 4. We are to arm ourselves with this same mind Jesus had towards suffering; The mind that I'm not giving in, I'm not giving up, I'm not giving the flesh what it wants; my flesh may not like it, but no

matter what comes I'm going to stay in faith and please God; it may get dark, but the darker it gets the brighter my faith is going to shine-Hebrews 12:2

5. Suffering has to do with pleasing God and it's impossible to please God without faith and therefore it's impossible to truly suffer if you are not in faith; the suffering is staying in faith because that's what your flesh doesn't want-Hebrews 11:6

- a. If you're not in faith you're not suffering and if you truly are suffering you do it with joy and peace-Romans 15:13

D. 1 Peter 5:10-When you stay in faith and properly handle the suffering, the glory comes

1. After you've suffered a while-That means your flesh wanted to do some stuff and you stayed in faith
2. This perfecting, this strengthening, this establishing, this settling is you being glorified, you coming up to a more exalted state and a more glorious condition

II. This is how the spirit of faith deals with pressure: He calls it light and then uses it to develop

A. *When you see pressure you look at it and tell it two things: 1) You ain't nothing 2) You're about to work for me

1. When David saw Goliath he said two things: 1) You ain't nothing 2) You're about to work for me

B. Pressure shouldn't be working against you; you make pressure work for you

1. **A person with the spirit of faith will make pressure work for him and use it to experience more of God's glory (You're about to work for me)**
2. **The spirit of faith will use the pressure to develop, and will use pressure to climb up the kingdom ladder of (glory) magnificence, excellence, preeminence, dignity, grace**

C. The pressure only worked for them because of how they responded to and handled the pressure-2 Corinthians 4:8-18

1. If you don't respond in faith to the pressure, then the pressure will be working against you, you'll be working for it and there'll be no glory

D. *This pressure that came to destroy him is actually now aiding in developing him, promoting him, and bringing him up to a more exalted state and a more glorious condition; it's working for him

III. The Spirit of faith will use pressure to prove it's worthy of promotion (*Don't misunderstand it promotion comes from the Lord, but he's using pressure to move that along-Psalm 75:6*)

A. Handling pressure properly positions you for promotion and proves you're ready for it

1. David used lion and the bear (which was pressure) and the lion and the bear actually worked for him and he developed and it got him promoted to Goliath and then Goliath actually worked for him and he developed and it got him promoted to be king-1 Samuel 17:34

B. *In times of pressure God finds out who is worthy of promotion

1. Anyone of those men could have done what David did because they all had the same covenant by which he did it

- C. The spirit of faith looks for opportunities to develop
 - 1. I'm not saying the Lord didn't tell David to do that, but nobody's asking David to go do this; it isn't like David had a Moses experience with the burning bush and thus says the Lord
 - 2. David hunted pressure down and ran towards it
- D. The pressure we are experiencing is not at all to be compared to the glory that we're getting
 - 1. What we're getting far outweighs what we're having to do to get it
 - a. David kept saying, "I get all this, just for doing this." – What he has to do is not at all to be compared with the glory that he's going to get
 - 2. **The glory were getting is greater than the suffering we're experiencing; it's worth it**
 - a. That's why you can be glad to do it and value the trying of your faith as precious because oh how great the glory that comes
 - b. The trial of your faith is precious because without it, there's no glory, no development-1 Peter 1:7