

Consider your ways! 8Go up to the mountains, bring wood and rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be glorified," says the Lord.(Haggai 1:7, 8)

4 But now take courage,‘and work; for I am with you,’ declares the Lord of hosts. (Haggai 2:4)

18TH MAY 2014

MANIFESTATION OF YOUR FAITH

1 PETER 1:6-9; JAMES 1:2,3;1 CORINTHIANS 13

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Last week, we heard about the Testing of your Faith. Testing is to show us where we stand. When we say something God will test you.

1 Peter 1:6-9 - ‘In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7These 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. 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.

YOU'RE LOOKING AT PURE GLORY

CHRIST IN ME IS MY GLORY

This scripture is a very powerful scripture. The first question, in our times of testing, we want to ask God is “Why?” The Bible says you can have a life full of joy but it doesn't say that you will have a life without problems. Your joy has nothing to do with your problems. Your joy is dependent on your intimacy with God.

Count it great joy, brethren! This person wasn't thinking; he was led by the Holy Spirit. The testing of your faith brings perseverance. If there is a testing then there is always a reward for it. God is the one who rewards those who diligently seek him.

James 1:2 - 2Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,^[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds,

When trials come, consider it all joy, pure joy. Not a trial, not some trials but a series of trials. Every trial is a joy. At every trial, here is your opportunity to rejoice. If trials hit your home, hit your life, God is saying “Rejoice!” Whoever said anything about rejoicing, it is a commandment.

KNOWING

Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. If you only knew that the testing of your faith was going to bring reward, you would just count it joy. If you just knew that the testing of your faith produces endurance; it is going to produce in you tenacity, an ability to bounce back when you are stretched in every direction, you would say Hallelujah! If you have been tested God believes you are going to make it through.

I want you to know, that on every level there is a new devil. That’s what God does, he makes you say things you don’t believe it. God knows that when you come to that level, you can handle that devil.

AT THAT LEVEL, YOU’LL HANDLE THAT DEVIL

Joy is not the result of your circumstance. Joy is a result of knowing that you will come through the fire and stand strong. **Faith being tested will produce endurance.** The endurance came because the fire came.

1 Peter 1:7- *These 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.*

You thought it’d be tested by air conditioning, by smooth words from others, by easy life and smooth knees and by people not accusing you or lying to you. **Your faith will be tested by nothing less than fire!**

God will only test you depending on what material you are made of. If you’re gold, you will have fire! If you are paper, you will have water to test you. But the moment you are gold, they are tested by fire. Likewise, when a silver smith is purifying silver, he has to be constantly watching it.

How long God is this fire going to be on? Till my face is on you. If the intention is for your face is shown on me, then bring it on Lord. **What is the intention of his testing? The intention is his face.**

James 1:2, 3 - *²Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,³ whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.*

There is a perfect kind of endurance. You know why? Because God wants to bring about a perfect kind of endurance. Endurance brings within your life and my life a maturity in our faith. This maturity doesn't come by smooth preaching or going to a great church. Maturity of your faith is established in good preaching but it is tested in fire. That is why you and I have gone through difficult times. What is this got to do with the trial I'm going through? What you need is not how to get out of this trial but the wisdom to go through this trial. If you are going through a trial, then throw a party and count it all joy. This hellfire is going to bring in me endurance.

Allow this word of God to form you, establish you and mould you. You're backslidden because you don't love God's word. He promises you that you will be tested and you will have joy in your heart. Testing of your faith brings perseverance.

When testing comes, distress comes on. After you've cried, you need to let something in by reading the word. When you cry, you're meditating on everything that would bring you down. It is the word of God that brings faith in the midst of a trial. His word will change the environment in your spirit. His word will transform you to be the blessing God has called you to be to the nations.

You can't touch some people because they aren't trained in godliness. Our faith is dependent on what we believe. Then there are some people who say, my belief hasn't changed just that the people around need to change. The Bible calls us to perfection. The Bible doesn't say anywhere that there is a perfect church.

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

PROOF OF YOUR FAITH

The Bible says there is a proof of your faith. I thought the proof of my faith is my confession. I thought what I confessed actually manifested what I believe. Our faith, when it is tested, will manifest with the truth. How do I know that I come out strong from this? I thought the proof of my faith was

the number of Bible verses I learnt or Bible schools or conferences I've been to. If the two groups of people can come and listen to the same word and have two different outcomes, the problem is not with the word but with the soil. The soil doesn't want to save that seed. That's why the Bible says, some fell on the rocks, in the thorns and on good soil.

SAME SEED...DIFFERENT SOIL

My faith is highly dependent on my soil. If I want my faith to grow, I need my soil to be worked upon. People can listen to that word and laugh about it or say, "I don't believe in all this." The problem is not with the word, the problem is with the soil. The birds of the air just came and pecked off the seeds. Strongholds around us won't let that word settle.

RIGHT KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

How many people have been hurt by people? We tried out a sample prayer when we are hurt by people. "Karthave! Touch his life. Save that sinner. Save him once more. Let him also humble down." We don't have to pray any of that. The Bible simply says, "Because you forgave me I have no choice but to forgive the other person. Lord, I forgive him because you forgave me." I am a slave of Christ. Dead men don't get hurt. If you are getting hurt, you're getting hurt because you are alive. So you have to pray, "Kill me, O Lord." The scripture says, "I am crucified with Christ. Lord, why is this old man rising up?" If you are crucified with Christ, then, if someone's got to get hurt it has to be Jesus and not you. If a man was crucified, back in the day, he would be an outcast, humiliated and his possessions taken away.

The way we pray begins to change. I knew there is a proof of a faith.

1 Peter 1:7- *These 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.*

Every time a trial or a test comes in your life the proof of your faith is going to bring glory to God. Your response and my response to God will bring glory to God. God will give you the ability to handle that trial. God didn't promise that you can see everything at time. Every time a testing comes your way, my Bible says that God is positioning you to glorify God. ***You're just positioned to glorify God.***

How are you positioned to glorify God?

1 Peter 1:7- *⁷These 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.*

When there is a revelation of Jesus, there is a revelation of God. Testing by itself doesn't bring glory, but **my response to allow a revelation of Jesus brings glory to God.** What is my response?

1 Peter 1:8 - *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,*

Though you have not seen the end, you just love God so much that you are already in the middle of hellfire saying, "God I love you so much."

AT THE END OF EVERYTHING, THERE WILL BE GLORY TO GOD

The proof of your faith is not your railing and ranting but that even though you have not seen him you love him. ***The proof of your faith is love.***

Matthew 22:36-38 - *³⁶"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"
³⁷Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'^[c] ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'^[d]*

If I really want to know if I have faith then I just need to check if love God. Your faith is not manifested by your confession. The devil confessed it many times. When was the last time you preached on a street corner and said Jesus Christ is Lord. The devils have done street preaching. The devil knows confession but he doesn't have the nature i.e. love. That is the key which is the testing of your faith. If you can love the people that have hurt you and lied about you, that is the testing of your faith. It is whether there is a love that is inside of you; that is driving your faith. The proof of your faith is not the miracles or confessions. The proof of our faith is whether after they have hurt us we get up and say I love you with the love of God.

Many of us love because the other person loves you. Some of us love people who are loveable. If you have to show your wife that you are boss then she doesn't know and you are not the boss. Jesus looked for an ID card for disciples.

John 13:34-35 – ³⁴“*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.*”³⁵*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*”

The problem with our kind of church is that if they love me, they would know and do this for you. To love someone somewhere leaves somebody somewhere will have had sacrificed something. If the 99 says, “Go father and find the one sheep and say we’re behind you.” That becomes the maturity of the 99 and it becomes a partnership. That’s why God is pulling on our love. The shepherd knows, the shepherd has the grace. Every call has a grace.

GRACE

Do you know that every single one of you husbands have the grace to run a family? God said he has put a grace upon your life. Whether you’re operating in that grace or not is a different issue. Because you are not operating in that grace, your wives have no right to enter into that grace.

How many of you know that these mothers have such a grace upon their lives? You get your home ten maids but they cannot fill the grace of a mother. That is a grace from God. The shepherd has a grace. Every call has a grace. If I want to step into something, the grace has got to be given. Either way, you have the grace upon you. If you are going through a testing, then I want you to know that there is a grace placed upon you.

I HAVE THE GRACE OF GOD UPON MY LIFE

God can teach you how to love. It really takes a Christian to love the ones who don’t love you. It’s easy to love people who love you. The Bible says that you ought to love them that curse you, despise you, say evil things about you. When you do that, you will heap burning coals upon those people. God wants us to move from talk to love.

1 Corinthians 13:11 - ¹¹*When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.*

Faith, hope and love and, the Bible says these three things are there. There are 13 other places that speak of faith, hope and love.

1 Corinthians 13:1 - *If I speak in the tongues^(a) of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.*

The person listening to me is hearing gongs going off and can't understand anything.

1 Corinthians 13:2 - *²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.*

The Bible says, if I don't have love, then I am nothing. The Bible says, such a man, moves mountains, prophesies and doesn't have love, he is nothing. If you and I have built our faith so much that miracles are happening, healings are happening and we don't have love, we are nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:3-9 - *³If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,^(b) but do not have love, I gain nothing.*

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part,

1 Corinthians 13:13 - *¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

If these three abide and the greatest is love that means ***faith and hope is the beginning of your faith and love is the maturity of your faith.***

Moving mountains, speaking in tongues, giving your body to be burnt is just the beginning but **learning to love those who have spoken against you, hurt you is your maturity.**

What does perfect mean? It means **mature.**

How does your endurance become mature? When you learn to love people with the love of Jesus Christ. That you don't love them because of; you love them despite of; you love them because they are important to God.

The testing of your faith is going to bring in you a maturity of love. It is God's unconditional love. The faith they see in you is the love that you have.

Different people have different expectations when they love. Love has very little to do with our expectations being met. Jesus said, "If it is possible, take this cup away from me but nevertheless not my will by Thy will." The foun-

dition is when we like Job would say “Though you would slay me yet I will love you and go through that fire.” Your expectations will be gone. And there maybe unanswered prayers and God is waiting; if He loves you, He would wait. Because He wants you to grow up and mature. He wants you to mature in your faith. Not that you have to wait for people to come to you, so that you can be the love and be sent out to be the love of God.

Faith and hope is the beginning but love is the foundation of your faith.