

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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THE PRECIOUS TRIAL OF FAITH

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Peter penned, *"That the trial of your faith" is "much more precious than of gold that perisheth"* (I Pet. 1:7). There is no doubting this divinely inspired statement. But what is not completely revealed in this verse is why the trial of faith is precious and what the trial brings. To that end, we offer this article.

1) It Brings Patience.

James submitted, *"that the trying of your faith worketh patience"* (Jam. 1:3). The idea here is endurance, the ability to last through the difficult times of the Christian's life. This is the same "patience" written about in I Pet. 1:6. Each time our personal faith is tried and tested, and we successfully bear up, our endurance (patience) increases. As our age increases, the hope is that our patience will as well. Remember the words of Jesus Christ when He said, *"In your patience possess ye your souls"* (Lk. 21:19). Wouldn't you say that patience and endurance are important?

2) It Brings Others To

God. Remember the three young men of the fiery furnace in Daniel 3? Their faith was threatened with the ultimate sacrifice, a furnace made seven times hotter (Dan. 3:19). Their faith allowed them to say, "we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up" (Dan. 3:18). After all was said and done, and the three young men exited unscathed, it was apparent their successful trial of faith had an impact. The king said, *"there is no other God that can deliver after this sort"* (v. 29). When your faith is tried, who will you affect and how?

3) It Brings A Home

In Heaven. Abraham desired *"a better country"* and a city *"whose builder and maker is God"* (Heb. 11:10, 16). He ensured that he could get there by exercising his faith under the severest of trials. The Hebrew author penned that Abraham, *"when he was tried, offered up Isaac"* (Heb. 11:17). Would your faith allow you to undertake such a

task requested by God? Abraham has been passed on for centuries, but that has not stopped God from declaring Himself as the *"God of Abraham"* (Matt. 22:32). If you are looking for that Heavenly city, it will come partly as a result of your faith persevering through difficult trials.

4) It Brings Glory To

God. Ultimately, the trial of our faith is precious because it brings God *"praise and honour and glory"* (I Pet. 1:7). After all, this is the greatest reason for our existence. When others see us last through those challenging times effectively, they wonder why. Then they come to find out that it is our undying faith in our Father and Creator, and the light shines on God (Matt. 5:16). May it ever be!

Always consider the trying of your faith a precious thing. Never give up and never give in and never quit, just keep on obeying God and remaining faithful to Him! Keep on keeping on!

SAVED LIKE NOAH

Johnie Edwards

"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" (Rev. 22:14).

The apostle Peter said, *"... the ark, wherein few, that is eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us . . . by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 3:20-21).* Let's take a look at what it means to saved like Noah.

Saved By Grace. Just as *"Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord" (Gen. 6:8), "For by grace are ye saved" (Eph. 2:8).* As Noah found God's favor and was saved from the waters of the flood, so it is by God's favor that we can be saved from our sins. It is not by grace alone, or anything else alone, but a number of things which work together to bring about our salvation. Noah was saved by grace, but not by grace alone and neither are we.

Saved by Faith. "By

faith Noah...prepared an ark in the saving of his house" (Heb. 11:7). We, as was Noah, are saved by faith. *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is" (Heb. 11:6).* Unbelievers were told to, *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:31).* Every case of conversion in the New Testament, was that of believers. In fact, one must believe in order to have the right to be saved (Jn. 1:11-12). At the point of faith, one may exercise his right to be saved or stay lost! True, we are saved by faith but *"not by faith only" (Jas. 2:24).*

Water And Baptism.

The waters of the flood kept the ark afloat, so the Bible says, *"eight souls were saved by water" (1 Pet. 3:21).* The Bible does not teach that we are saved by water, but it does say, *"The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us" (1 Pet. 3:21).* You see, the word baptism does not mean water. It means immersion. Baptism is an act of obedience, commanded by

the Lord. *"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mk. 16:16).*

Obedience Saves. Just as Noah was saved because, *"Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he" (Gen. 6:22);* we are also saved by obeying the Lord. For Jesus is *"the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Heb. 5:8-9).* At the very outset, God demanded obedience from man. *"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Gen. 2:16-17).* A failure to obey brings about the penalty of death. The book of Revelation closes with the demand for obedience. *"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" (Rev. 22:14).* It takes the same things to save us today that it took to save Noah in his day. Have you been saved like Noah? You can be!

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm