

February 16, 2022

THE WAITING CHRISTIAN, PART 3

1. INTRODUCTION

- A. In part one we learned that a Christian is waiting first and foremost for glorification and not an earthly benefit.
- B. In part two we learned that a Christian must demonstrate his hope by living faithfully.
- C. In part three we will study how Christians can live faithfully during trials.

2. WAITING FOR THE END OF A TRIAL

- A. God gives Christians trials to help them _____.
 - i. Believers receive special treatment because they are God's children.
 - 1. *Christians earn special hardships because of their identity.*
 - a. *Followers of Christ: Enmity of the world (John 15:18-20)*
 - b. *Sons of God: Chastisement when we sin (Heb. 12:6)*
 - c. _____ of heaven: *Development of patience (Jam. 1:2-4)*
 - 2. *Christians have divine Comfort during hardship (John 15:26; 2 Cor. 1:3-4).*
 - 3. *Christians have God's guarantee that He is working for their eternal good if not their temporal comfort (Rom 8:28-30).*
 - ii. Unbelievers may appear to have everything easy, but do not envy them.
 - 1. *Unbelievers do not have the same _____ opposition as believers.*
 - 2. *Unbelievers appear to prosper (Psalm 73:1-15).*
 - 3. *Unbelievers have an _____ (Psalm 73:16-20; 37:1-2, 9-10).*
- B. Trials are opportunities for Christians to demonstrate their hope with faithful living.

A common feeling while in a trial is uncertainty of what to do, but the Bible clearly reveals several concrete steps of faithful living that believers must apply – even during trials.

- i. Action of Faith 1:

 - 1. *Trials may be chastisement to bring us back into God's will (Heb. 12:5b-6).*
 - 2. *Trials may also be tests for our _____, to see if we will sin (Judg. 2:20-23; Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6; Zech. 13:9).*

Application: Keep your relationship with God clear. Listen to the Holy Spirit and confess sins that He reveals to you.

ii. Action of Faith 2:

1. *Look for promises to build your hope on.*
 - a. *Read (Deut. 17:19; 31:11-13; Psalm 19:11; Eph. 3:3-4)*
 - b. *Study (2 Tim. 2:15)*
 - c. _____ (Ps. 119: 11, 16)
 - d. *Meditate (Josh. 1:8; Ps. 119:97, 99, 148; 1 Tim. 4:15)*
2. *God will direct your eyes to the promises you need at specific times (John 16:13).*

Application: Love the Word of God!

iii. Action of Faith 3:

1. *Pray frequently (Ps. 55:17; Luke 21:36; Eph. 6:18)*
2. *Pray specifically (Matt. 6:7, 11; Luke 11:11)*
3. *Pray expectantly (Matt. 17:20-21; Luke 5:18-20; Jam. 1:5-8)*
4. *Pray _____ (Jam. 5:16-18; 1 Kings 18:43-44; Matt. 17:19-21)*
5. *Pray _____ (2 Chron. 20:1-4, 13-25; John 11:41-42; Phil. 4:6; 1 Thess. 5:17-18)*

Application: When the going gets tough, pray!

iv. Action of Faith 4:

1. *Focus on what you have not on what you want.*
 - a. *God has supplied your needs till now.*
 - b. *He will continue to supply your needs (Matt. 6:8; Phil. 4:19).*
2. *Remember that _____ is sinful.*
 - a. *Discontentment and complaints resulted in judgment for the Israelites (1 Cor. 10:10; Num. 11:4-6, 18-20, 31-33).*
 - b. *Discontentment is revealed by covetousness (Heb. 13:5).*
 - c. *Covetousness is a perilous character trait of the Last Days (1 Cor. 6:10; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 2 Pet. 2:1-3).*
 - d. *Covetousness is closely related to _____ (Col. 3:5).*
3. *Recognize that discontentment ultimately reveals _____.*
 - a. *It demonstrates that you think God's previous works were insufficient.*
 - b. *It proves that you _____ His future works to also be insufficient.*

- c. Why would God want to bless someone who _____ about His blessings?

Application: Trust God to provide for your needs; then be thankful when He does provide.

- v. Action of Faith 5:

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1. Everyone has received something from God.
 2. Honoring Him with His gifts is the path to receiving further _____ (2 Sam. 2:30; Pro. 3:9-10; Hag. 1:5-6, 9-10; Matt 25:14-30).
 3. In addition to tithing, God rewards our gifts to others who have need (Pro. 19:17; Phil. 4:16-19).

Application: Show your thankfulness to God by honoring Him with your possessions.

- vi. Action of Faith 6:

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1. Beware taking the "easy way" out of a trial.
 - a. Your heart can deceive you with false logic leading directly to sin (Pro. 14:12; Jer. 17:9).
 - b. God may, however, give a " _____ " (1 Cor. 10:13).
 - i. A "way of escape" is not sinful or unbiblical (Jam 1:13-16).
 - ii. A "way of escape" will not lead from one trial to another (Pro. 22:3)
 - iii. A "way of escape" will not contradict your trust in God (Pro. 3:5-6).
 - iv. A "way of escape" is not simply an _____ from hardship (Jam. 1:4).
 - v. A "way of escape" is not a shortcut to gratification (Ps. 37:4-5).
 - vi. A "way of escape" is recognized by godly counselors (Pro. 11:14).
 2. Beware avoiding your problems by masking them.
 - a. Ignoring a trial, hoping it will go away is a spiritually immature response.
 - b. Every trial has a divine purpose (Jer. 29:11; 1 Pet. 1:6-9).
 - c. The best way to end the test is to learn the lesson (Judg. 3:7-9a; Ps. 95:7-11).
 3. Beware withdrawing from other _____ (Ecc. 4:9; Gal. 6:1-2; Heb. 10:24-25).
 4. Beware withdrawing from Christian _____ (Matt. 25:14-21; Luke 18:7-8; 1 Cor. 16:3)

Application: Keep on keeping on!

3. SUMMARY

- A. God specifically designs trials for His children.
- B. God does not leave His children without _____ during trials.
- C. God expects His children to maintain their faith even during trials by:
 - i. Confessing their sins.
 - ii. Building their hope on His promises.
 - iii. Talking to Him about their trials.
 - iv. Accepting what He has given them.
 - v. _____ Him with His gifts.
 - vi. Waiting patiently for the end of the trial.

4. PRINCIPLES FOR WAITING:

- A. A Christian waits first and foremost for glorification not an earthly benefit.
- B. A Christian must demonstrate his hope by living faithfully.
- C. A Christian receives trials to help him grow.
- D. A Christian succeeds in a trial when he continues living faithfully despite hardship.