

What produces patience? Rejoicing or Tribulations?

Pastor Sandy Longgear

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The King James version of Romans 5:3 says: And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience. *Today's English version* says: We also rejoice in our troubles. I like how the Living Bible says it: We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials... Yet the Philippians really puts a good perspective on this truth. Let's begin with verse 1. Reading verse 3 in the context will give even a better perspective. (The italics are my thoughts.)

Romans 5:1-11 Since then it is by faith that we are justified, let us grasp the fact that we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Did you grasp that? You have peace because of Jesus. Selah. Pause and think about that. Your circumstances don't dictate your peace.) Through Him we have confidently entered into this new relationship of grace (which is His undeserved favor always available because it's not dependent on our performance but only on Jesus' performance to justify and make us righteous and holy and then to make us able to live holy for Him and He causes His blessings to happen because we are simply in Him. **Ephesians 1:3**) and here we take our stand, in HAPPY certainty of the glorious things He has for us in the future.

(I love the next verse) This doesn't mean of course, that we have only a hope of future joys—we can be full of joy here and now even in our trials and tribulations. These very things will give us patient endurance; this in turn will develop a mature character, and a character of this sort produces a steady hope, a hope that will never disappoint us. Already we have the love of God flooding through our hearts by the Holy Spirit given to us.

(This isn't saying joy in or because of the tribulation but you can be full of joy in the midst of tribulation. How? Stop and rejoice. Put your favorite song on and let His presence come. And you'll rejoice effortlessly. Meditate the first part of this chapter on how righteous and holy you are and that you have peace with God because of Jesus and you'll be thanking Him and rejoicing effortlessly because of that truth. **THESE VERY THINGS: HIS LOVING PRESENCE THROUGH WORSHIP, MEDITATING THE WORD, KNOWING HE LOVES US, JUST WHATEVER IT TAKES FOR US TO GET IN HIS PRESENCE OF LOVE THAT HOLY SPIRIT FLOODS US WITH BRINGS REJOICING AND BEING FULL OF JOY IN THE MIDST OF THE TRIBULATION WILL GIVE US PATIENT ENDURANCE. THESE TRIBULATIONS ARE NOT THESE VERY THINGS THAT PRODUCE PATIENT ENDURANCE.** Tribulations just don't have that power. But His loving presence which brings that I can't help but rejoice because the new man Jesus has made us just shows up. And the new man does only what the new man can do which is BELIEVE and that FAITH speaks to the tribulations in our lives and they have to move!!!!!! Until they do Enjoy Him and Rejoice. And know with confident expectancy they will move. Oh yeah the new man manifests patient endurance. Again not the tribulations!!!!!! Yeah!!!!!! Jesus said in the world we would have tribulations but to be of good cheer because He has overcome the world. He came that we might have life abundantly. He wants us to expect good things to happen because He is a good and loving Daddy.)

Verse 6 continues: And we can see that it was at the very time that we were powerless to help ourselves that Christ died for sinful men. In human experience it is a rare thing for one man to give his life for another, even if the latter be a good man, though there have been a few who have had the courage to do it. Yet the proof of God's amazing love is this: that it was while we were sinners that Christ died for us. Moreover, if he did that for us while we were sinners, now that we are men justified by the shedding of His blood, what reason have we to fear the wrath of God? If, while we were His enemies, Christ reconciled us to God by dying for us, surely now that we are reconciled we may be perfectly certain of our salvation through his living in us. Nor, I am sure, is this a matter of bare salvation (it includes deliverance from that tribulation, healing, finances, peace in relationships, Daddy's destiny for us, protection, blessings overtaking us.....)we may hold our heads high in the light of GOD'S LOVE (THERE'S THAT LOVE AGAIN)BECAUSE OF THE RECONCILIATION WHICH CHRIST HAS MADE.

Did you ever pick a daisy and pick the petals and say he loves me, he loves me not? I did. And if the last petal of that daisy I was saying he loves me not I'd find another daisy til the last petal on that daisy I was saying he loves me. I wanted that person's affection. Sometimes we have been like that with the Lord and when good things happen we say He loves me. Then when bad things happen we wonder and say well maybe He loves me not. I want you to know Daddy wants you to pick a daisy today and with each petal say what good thing has happened and say He loves me. Then pick another petal and say a bad thing that has happened and say He loves me still. Keep picking til that last petal you pick whether you mentioned a good or bad thing you are saying, He loves me, He loves me, He loves me, oh how He loves me. There are daisies everywhere now so go on now pick a daisy from the Lord and do this little visual teaching. And you will expect good things to happen as you become more convinced of His love for you.

Oh we have so much to be joyful over. Know your Daddy rejoices over you with singing and you can rest in His love for you and yes just sigh and breathe in His restfulness. Just 3 months til Women of Purpose so get you and your friend a ticket soon.

Love you all, Sandy Longgear

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