

PERPLEXED FAITH

(Faith Tested Series Part 4)

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THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

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When trials come from all sides, those who serve the Lord still bear the troubles with smiles, because the light of Jesus Christ shines out. We may be stressed, troubled, anxious, or perplexed and do not know which way to turn, but the Lord is there so we can triumph (2Cor.4). Let us always trust that God wants our hearts to be strong, unmovable, unstoppable in loving Him. He has a purpose for each one of us. God wants to use our life for His glory.

1. **Paul.** While Paul was going through trials, he was questioned, surrounded, and harassed by foes, but he continued with his mission and glorified God. Paul did not come to the point of losing faith. Despite all persecutions, obstacles, he remained faithful.

2. **Job** lost everything - all his children and his properties (Job 1 & 2). Despite his sufferings, he knelt and worshipped God. Satan covered his body with boils, but he was still in good health. He still had a wife to comfort him although she urged him to curse his God. He did not listen to his wife. God gave him holy boldness. There is joy in serving God.

❖ How can someone feel blessed when troubles happen on every side (at home, out of the home, in schools, in the country etc.). In the world, there are many tribulations. When we are in troubled times, we can remain calm and at peace (Jn. 16:33).

3. **God has a divine blueprint for each one of us.** We have assigned roles in His kingdom (2 Cor. 4:7-11).

3.1 In the house of God, we are the earthen vessels, emptied, sanctified, and prepared for good work (2Tim. 2:21). We are just like common vases. But we are temples of the Holy Spirit and become glazed vases. Ordinary becomes extraordinary vessels.

3.2 Paul paints a picture that we are like pottery that can crack or break when dropped. Similarly, life takes its toll on our physical strength and stamina. We get easily hurt.

3.3 We were set apart. God has prepared in advance good works for us to do even before we were born (Eph. 2:10). We must be ready to be used anytime. It is a great honor for us just to have life.

3.4 We have unique roles in our family, church, and the world at large. God did not place us on this earth to just go to school or have jobs. He has a special assignment for us, i.e. to manifest Himself through us. People will see our goodness and will glorify God in heaven (Mt 5:16).

3.5 Though we are weak, God uses us, and gives us power (Gal 2:20). We bear in our mortal bodies the most precious treasure – Jesus (1 Cor. 3:16). The exterior may be old, but when God uses us, no matter what our past was, the Lord cleanses us when we ask for forgiveness.

4. There is hope and love when we believe in Jesus Christ and in the presence of the Holy Spirit. God's light will always shine out.

CONCLUSION:

Christian sufferings are only in this life. Troubles are temporary. We do not lose light because the treasure is in us (2Cor. 4:16). We must not lose heart. By the grace of God, we will overcome, and the glory of God will be revealed.

REFLECTION:

Are you willing to be used by God? How have you faced hardships in the past? How will you handle trouble in the future from what you learned from Paul and Job?

PRAYER: Lord, help us not to lean on our understanding but rely on you.

SCRIBES MINISTRY:

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