

# Gospel Therefore

## Gospel Thinking – Part 1

Knowing What God's Done & What We Should Do

**1 Peter 1:2-21**

Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, July 8, 2012

Real spiritual maturity is when you learn to LOVE and LIVE with biblical tension between great truths in the Bible.

"Balance is that elusive point we pass through on our way to another extreme." -**Warren Wiersbe**

**1 Corinthians 15:10** "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

**1 Peter 1:2-21**

### I. Soaking in the Gospel Indicatives Will Keep You Rejoicing in the Face of Trials and Suffering

**1 Peter 1:6** "In this you greatly rejoice..."

**1 Peter 1:3-5** "<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

You don't have to live long to realize that things are SO broken and fallen and twisted that if you don't have something outside this world to cling to and hope in, you won't have much joy.

**1 Peter 4:12-13, 19** "<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; <sup>13</sup> but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy... <sup>19</sup> Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good as to a faithful Creator."

God hasn't promised 'Your Best Life Now.' God has promised your *blessed* life and your *pressed* life right now. He'll bless you, and He'll press you. Both.

**1 Peter 4:10** "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

There's a grace of God to match every trial – no matter how bizarre and complex and convoluted.

**1 Peter 1:6** "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials"

We're grieved by various trials, but we can rejoice IN THIS... that we're objects of his mercy, that we have an inheritance that cannot fade away, and that we're kept by the power of God!

Peter puts our trials in the context of great Gospel indicatives – it helps us to begin to see our trials as **short, necessary and meaningful**.

Whatever you're going through in this life is just a 'little while' compared to eternity. But you have to keep soaking in great Gospel indicatives or you'll lose sight of that, and you'll bog down with a world that's no bigger than your latest problem.

**1 Peter 5:8-11** ESV “<sup>8</sup> Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. <sup>10</sup> And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

If you have a trial in your life right now, God decided that it needed to be there – had to be there – to accomplish His purposes. Nothing just happens! God is at work in your life.

Our trials are necessary because they work ON us and IN us to make us more like Christ.

**1 Peter 1:7** “that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ”

Our trials are not meant to take the strength OUT of us but to put the strength IN us.

When you face trials and deep disappointment you learn what you love, what you really believe, and where you rest. It takes HEAT – real pressure to push these answers to the surface.

As you go through the trials and suffering in this life it PROVES and puts on display your faith... and will ultimately bring praise and honor to Jesus Christ!

**James 1:2-4** “<sup>2</sup> My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. <sup>4</sup> But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

Soaking in great Gospel indicatives is what will keep you rejoicing in the face of trials and suffering in this life.

## **II. Obeying Gospel Imperatives Will Keep You from Wasting Your Life & Looking Like You Don't have any Power or Purpose for Living**

**1 Peter 1:13-17** “<sup>13</sup> Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. <sup>15</sup> But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; <sup>16</sup> for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” <sup>17</sup> Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.”

In light of all that God has done FOR us, look at what we're supposed to be doing!

- v. 13 Prepare your mind for action
- v. 13 Be sober-minded or self-controlled
- v. 13 Rest your hope fully on the grace you will get when Christ returns
- v. 14 Don't let your sinful flesh squeeze you back into chasing after the same old lusts you were living for before like you don't know any better
- v. 15 Be holy... because God your Father is holy!
- v. 16 Fear God and live like you're just passing through

### **Questions for Small Group**

- Are the Gospel indicatives of all that God has done for you making a difference in your life or not?
- Are you soaking in them so that you can practice “In THIS you greatly rejoice”?
- Have the Scriptures become your prescription lens through which you see your trials differently now?
- Can you rejoice because you know your trials are *short, necessary, and meaningful*?