**HOPEWELL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

**EXPLORING THE WORD**

**WENDESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024**

**THOUGHT: "WILL YOU REMAIN IN FAITH?"**

**TEXTS: 1 PETER 1:6-7 AND JOB 13:15**

**1 Peter 1:6-9 (Contemporary English Version: CEV)**

*6—On that day you will be glad, even if you have to go through many hard trials for a while.*

*7—Your faith will be like gold that has been tested in a fire. And these trials will prove that your faith is worth much more than gold that can be destroyed. They will show that you will be given praise and honor and glory when Jesus Christ returns.*

*8—You have never seen Jesus, and you don’t see Him now. But still you love Him and have faith in Him, and no words can tell how glad and happy…*

*9—you are to be saved. This is why you have faith.*

**Job 13:15 (New International Version: NIV)**

*15—Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him; I will surely defend my ways to His face.*

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**Let's Look Closer at our Context Today…**

1. We always want to strive toward…

* Making things BETTER for our families (and ourselves)
* The manifestation of PEACE with one another
* Our GROWTH (personally and in our family)
* For JOY and REJOICING to overtake our lives
* The SECURITY of our finances, health, legacy

1. But we must also understand there are moments and seasons where it will be all we can do to just stand. This is when we are faced with the difficulties and the dilemmas of life.
2. In those moments, it DOES matter, as it relates to what we **DECLARE** and **DEMONSTRATE** in our **DIFFICULTIES**.
3. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once stated, *"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of convenience and comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."*
4. Think about that quote in light of these scriptures that we are surveying today. Both texts highlight tough times in the life of those who, watch this… "Belong to the Lord."
5. You heard that right. People who have some serious stuff going on in their lives, while they yet belong to the Lord.
6. But we **MUST** possess the mind of, "IN SPITE OF THAT, I WILL DO THIS!" Now each of us has to determine what that "THIS" is in your life—which counters the NATURALLY EXPECTED OUTCOME of your dilemma and difficult moment. But I can tell that it is wrapped up in your faith in God! Your unwavering, unmoved, unshaken faith in Him!
7. Notice:
8. The **Difficulty**—trials and persecution (1 Peter 1); sickness and brokenness (Job 13)
9. The **Discrepancy**—who these things are happening to. Those who are servants of the Lord. Those whose desire it is to honor Him with their lives. Does it seem fair??
10. The **Determination**—Job's determination was to continue to exhibit (put on display outwardly—based upon inward mind) faith and trust in the Lord.
11. The **Dedication**—Peter exhorts the believers going through to hang in there. To hold on to the One not yet seen—but on the way! Because it would be worth it. Their testimony becomes golden in the process!
12. Why are these two scriptures so valuable to us?

**WEIGHING YOUR TRIALS AGAINST YOUR TRUST:**

What are some difficulties, dilemmas, or diseases you are facing? (List them here)

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Now list your declarations and determinations concerning them? (Your Faith Response: 1 for 1)

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***~~ NOW DETERMINE TO CONTINUE LIVING BY FAITH! ~~***