

Series: God At Work (8/2/17)

Text: (Rom 5:1-5)

God is in the business of building saints.

(Phil 1:) *“He who has begun a good work in you”*

I. Salvation Brings Tribulation: (Rom 5:1-3)

Tribulation ~ the action in which you crush grapes or olives.

It's the pressure/stress -Feeling of being crushed.

Without pressure, there is no development of strength.

(Working with Resistance build Muscles)

Crystals are interesting things in nature.

Crystals are formed from Salt, Silicon, Carbon, Water.

You can actually grow salt crystals in an experiment at home.

Snowflakes are Water Crystals.

Most crystals grow naturally when conditions are right.

A Diamond is nothing more than a lump of coal that has been put under pressure for a very long time.

(1 Pet 4:12-14)

Every crystal formed is certainly beautiful, Unique, just like snowflakes are beautiful, and unique.

Every person grows naturally and is beautiful and unique.

No one's going to give you millions of dollars for a Silicon, Salt, or Snowflake crystal.

It's only the Crystals that forms through pressure that are precious and priceless.

God is working on us to make us Precious, like a diamond.

Nothing happens to us by accident.

The word LUCK, or FATE, has no Business being in the vocabulary of a Christian.

It's not good luck or bad luck but God's sovereignty sovereign working in our lives for our good to make us the diamond.

Pressure can come from the World: (Rom 12:1-2)

Conformed~Yield one's original form to another.

Yielding to the pressure to be in the likeness/agreement of.

There is pressure on all sides to do this.

It starts in elementary Ed, College, look diff, think same.

(John 15:18-21) I wish the World Loved me.

It would be easier. But it doesn't.

(1 Jn 3:1) the World doesn't have any regard for us, Because it doesn't regard God.

(James 4:4) Friend of the World/Enemy with God.

(1 Jn 2:15-17)

Pressure can come from the Flesh: (Gal 5:17)

Its like a civil war within you.

The Old Man, Wrestling for control with the Spirit of God for control of my life.

Pressure can come from Satan.

(Job 2:7) *So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.*

(2 Cor 12:7) *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

You may say,

“I am not experiencing any resistance from the devil.”

That's because you are traveling in the same direction as he is. Turn from your sin and you will have a Collision with him. Currently you are in Collusion with the devil.

Pressure can come from God.

(Heb 12:6) *For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*

God is not interested in making you Happy as much as He is trying to make you HOLY!

Temptations, Trial, and Tribulations are a part of life.

It is a false gospel that teaches otherwise.

Pressure comes from Satan to get you to Stumble, where pressure comes from God to teach you to STAND!

But irregardless of the source of God is over it all.

1st step in God building a Rock solid faith in you.

Conversion Brings Conflict! (Rom 5:1-3)

Vs 1-2 that we will be saved

Vs 3 We will have Conflict.

II. Tribulation Worketh Patience: (Rom 5:3)

Patience: Consistency Faithfulness

The Conflict doesn't make you, it just reveals what you are.

Illus: The same Sun that melts ice, hardens the clay.

Patience, Perseverance, Endurance

Tribulation works Patience:

(Rom 5:3) *And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;*

(James 1:3) *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

4 Things you can do in the face of Conflict:

Retreat: Bottle, pills, drugs, gun.

Resent: Now Look What Has Happened to Me!

Resign: They give up and give in to discouragement

Resolve: God wants us to Resolve ourselves to follow Him in Faith.

Faith is receiving from God the things you Want, as much as it is you accepting what God freely gives us.

Tribulation Worketh Patience!

Winston Churchill was mocked because he looked like a bulldog. His response was the Bulldogs have their noses slanted backward so that they can grab hold and still breath.

You need a Bulldog Grip on Almighty God!

(Job 13:15) *Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him:*

Salvation Brings Tribulation

Tribulation Worketh Patience

III. Patience Builds Experience: (Rom 5:4) *And patience, experience;*

God is building His Saints with Spiritual Steel, Spiritual Concrete.

Reputation is what other Think about you.
Character is what your Wife & God Know about you.

God wants to build Character in you.
The word *Experience* is used to describe Gold that has been tried in the Fire, is pure, has character.

God puts us in the Fire to Test us.
A Faith that cannot be Tested is a Faith that Cannot be Trusted.

This is how we learn how much Dross is in our life.
Explain how Gold has to be smelted.
To separate Gold from its impurities.

The times when we grow the most, in the Lord, is during trials and tribulations.

(Job 23:10) *But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.*

God is in the Transformation Business.
God didn't take away the Crucifixion, God gave us Easter.

We want God to Substitute things in our life.
Substitute our Sorrow for Happiness.
Substitute our needs for Wealth.

Substitute our illness for Health.

God is not in the Substitution Business, but in the Transformation Business.

God Transformed Saul into Paul...
God Transformed Paul's Weakness into Strength.
God Transformed Paul's ...

Character is developed, thats why its referred to as Experience.

You can't teach Experience, But Experience teaches you.
You can be instantly Spiritual, but not Instantly Mature.

You can be Young Once, but you can I mature for a very long time.

Conversion brings Conflict:

Conflict brings Constancy:

Constancy Brings Character:

The Goldsmith knows that the gold has been thoroughly refined when he can see his face reflected in it.

Can God see Himself Reflected in you?
Can your Wife and children see God reflected in yu?

IV. Experience Realizes Hope: (Rom 5:4) *& experience, hope:*

Doesn't Mean Maybe so Might.
Hope = Rock Solid Faith!

(Titus 2:13) *Blessed Hope, not a Blessed Maybe!*

This Hope is an Anchor of our Soul!

(Heb 6:19) *Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast,*

What good is an anchor without a Solid Rock to Cling to?
Steadfast, Sure.

You have been through the Fire, and you Know He has not Forsaken You.

(Rom 8:38-39) Pursuaded

Hope is Faith in the Future Tense

Hope can see heaven through the thickest Clouds.

(Rom 5:4-5) & *experience, hope:*

And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us

This means that God Cannot Fail!

No one has or can put their faith in Jesus Christ and be ashamed or regret it.

What is your Faith Anchored too?

What are you holding on to?

Some Man's Phylosophy?

Instead, why not take the testimony of someone who has never lied, cheated, or stole?

Why not take the testimony of someone who has died and return to tell us what's there?

What is the Anchor of your Faith Clinging to?
An Anchor is only as good as the Rock it clings to.

(Eph 4:18) *Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:*

All of this begins with Conversion!

Are you saved?

When were you saved?

How were you saved?

Here's How: (Sinner's Prayer)

What is your Anchor?

What is your Anchor clinging too?